

**BADGER STATE**

# Smoke Signals

**For Radio Amateurs • By Radio Amateurs**

**Published Monthly Since 1969 • Our 22nd Year • Single Copy: \$1.25**

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**Vol. 22 No. 1 - 253rd Consecutive Monthly Issue - Baraboo, Wisconsin - January 1991**

## The Old Family Album



Browsing through the file of photos here at BSSS Headquarters the other day produced this picture. It was taken at the 1976 American Radio Relay League Central Division Convention at the Red Carpet Inn in Milwaukee. Shown, left to right, are Ken Ebnetter, K9EN (the BSSS Circulation Department); Lillian Cruz-Urbe, W9MMO, Green Bay; Dave Vitkus, WN9RXV, Knox, Indiana; and Antonio Cruz-Urbe, XE1BT, now a Silent Key. Tony was the Mexican government's consul in Green Bay. He also spent much time in Milwaukee, assisting Mexican citizens there. His enthusiasm for Amateur Radio and for life in general was unbounded and contagious. When introduced at Amateur Radio gatherings, he always told the crowd he was from Green Bay - "Title Town, U.S.A." Although Ken is feeding a forkful of tasty dessert to Lillian, his own mouth is also open - no doubt a reflex action. This convention, and one at the same location in 1979, was sponsored by the West Allis Radio Amateur Club.

- Photo by Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ

## Code to be Dropped from Technician Exam

The Federal Communications Commission will eliminate the Morse code portion of the Technician class Amateur Radio examination, thereby creating a code-free class of license.

The new rules will probably take effect 30 days after their publication in the *Federal Register*. According to Private Radio Bureau Chief Ralph Haller, the effective date could be as early as February, 1991.

Current Technician class licenses will be grandfathered, so as not to lose any privileges (including those below 30 MHz, which they share with Novices). The new codeless Technicians will have full amateur privileges above 30 MHz. "New" Technician licenses will, upon passing a 5-WPM code test before volunteer examiners, be issued a Certificate of Successful Completion, allowing them the same HF privileges as "old" Technicians.

Volunteer examiners will be required to notify the FCC of the 5-WPM Morse CSCE issued to "new" Technicians, so the FCC will have this information for enforcement purposes.

The current Novice class license will be retained without modification, as an "alternate entry point" for persons willing to pass a Morse test without taking the more difficult Technician theory examination.

(Please turn to page 16)

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## ELMER

by Rich Regent, K9GDF





## Swapfests and Other Social Events

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1991. WARAC Midwinter Swapfest, Waukesha County Expo Center Forum, Highways J & FT, Waukesha, WI. Contact: WARAC Swapfest, P.O. Box 1072, Milwaukee, WI 53201. (See flyer ad with full details elsewhere in this issue of BSSS)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 1991. Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs Hamfest-91. Held at the Odeum Exposition Center, Villa Park, Illinois. Contact: WCRA, PO Box QSL, Wheaton, IL 60189.

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 1991. Lamarsfest, Lake County Fairgrounds, Grayslake, IL. Contact LAMARS, Box 751, Libertyville, IL 60048. Commercial exhibitors call Frank Avellone, W9GLO, (708) 295-6300.

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 1991. MARA Swapfest, Madison WI. (See ad on last page this issue.) SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1991. 13th annual Cedarburg Swapfest at the Circle-B Recreation center, Highway 60 and County I. Contact: ORC Swapfest, 11448 Laguna Drive, Mequon, WI 53091. (414) 242-4995.

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1991. The Ozaukee Radio Club will sponsor its thirteenth annual Cedarburg Swapfest at the Circle-B Recreation Center, Highway 60 and County I. Contact ORC Swapfest, 11448 Laguna Drive, Mequon, WI 53092. (414) 242-4995

SATURDAY, MAY, 11, 1991. Lakeshore Swapfest, Manitowoc, WI.

SATURDAY, JULY 6, 1991. South Milwaukee Swapfest. (See ad on last page this issue.)

AUGUST 23-25, 1991. 1991 ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION AND HAMFEST. Saginaw, Michigan. Contact: 1991 National ARRL Convention, P.O. Box 1783, Saginaw, Michigan.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1991. KMRA Swapfest, Waukesha, WI.

As a service to our readers, this section of Badger State Smoke Signals is available without charge to list your upcoming Swapfest, Hamfest, dinner, picnic, party or other event of interest to Radio Amateurs in Wisconsin and nearby areas. Send information on your event to Kenneth A. Ebner, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901. In addition, space is available at attractive rates on our advertising pages. For information on rates and requirements for our advertising pages, please contact K9ZZ or K9EN.

## Club Meetings

Due to space limitations, we cannot always carry the full listing of Wisconsin and area club meetings. Please see the September 1990 BSSS meetings column for the latest complete listing. The following are additions or corrections since the last complete listing.

The YTARC meets in the Baraboo Civic Center at 7:30 PM.  
January 15 (Tuesday) Room --  
February 13 (Wednesday) Room --  
March 14 (Thursday) Room --  
Room number will be posted at both entrances.

## The Test Point

Amateur Radio examinations  
scheduled in and around Wisconsin

The following are known locations where Amateur Radio license examinations are scheduled in the Badger State area. (Underlined are added or changed since last months BSSS.)

January 9, 1991	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
January 12, 1991	Eau Claire, WI
January 21, 1991	Waukesha, WI (MRAC)
February 6, 1991	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
February 23, 1991	Madison, WI
March 6, 1991	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
March 9, 1991	Dubuque, IA
April 5, 1991	Madison, WI
April 10, 1991	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
April 13, 1991	Eau Claire, WI
May 1, 1991	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
June 5, 1991	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
June 8, 1991	Dubuque, IA
July 27, 1991	Eau Claire, WI
September 7, 1991	Dubuque, IA
October 12, 1991	Eau Claire, WI
December 7, 1991	Dubuque, IA

Monthly, First Sat. Racine, WI  
(except January, July & August)  
Monthly, Last Sat. Tomahawk, WI  
(January thru October only)  
Monthly, Third Sat. Loves Park, IL  
Minnesota tests listed at end of column

## Badger State Smoke Signals

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### Subscriptions

1 Year	(12 issues)	\$9.75
2 Years	(24 issues)	\$18.00
3 Years	(36 issues)	\$26.00

Address changes and corrections should be sent to Kenneth A. Ebner, address above.

Editorial material, photographs, feature articles, display ads, and exchange papers should be sent to Jim Romelfanger,

address above.

Inquiries about advertising should be directed to Kenneth A. Ebner, address above.

Subscriptions should be sent, with check or money order, to Jim Decker, address above.

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### Editorial Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in editorials, guest editorials, columns, articles, and letters from readers are the opinions of the authors only, and do not, unless otherwise stated, express or imply endorsement by *Badger State Smoke Signals*, or by any other organization.

### GENERAL RULES

#### FOR MOST EXAMINATIONS:

Be sure to check with sponsors in the event there are changes and/or errors in the dates or information given.

Most examinations require filing an FCC Form 610 and advance registration at least 30 days before the exam date. (Some VECs permit walk-ins. Check with sponsor.)

To register, you must first secure a copy of the current FCC Form 610 and fill it out completely (AND CORRECTLY). Get your form from an FCC Field Office, the ARRL or Badger State Smoke Signals. Send a 25¢ SASE if you request one from the ARRL or BSSS. In most cases, forms can also be obtained from the sponsoring group.

ARRL/VEC examinations require a check for \$5.25 payable to "ARRL/VEC".

The FCC now requires applicants to show their original Amateur license to the VEC. A copy of your license must be attached to your FCC form 610. You will also be required to have a photo ID, or other acceptable identification.

Technician class licensees must show proof of testing before March 21, 1987, in order to upgrade to General with a code test only.

Additional information is given below.

#### MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS' CLUB MRAC/VEC

1991 examination dates:

January 12, 1991. WARAC MID-WINTER SWAPFEST. Waukesha, WI. 9:00 A.M. at the Red Carpet Lanes across the road from the Expo Center.

February 6, March 6, April 10, May 1, and June 5, 1991

Wauwatosa East High School, North 74th and Milwaukee Avenue. Enter through the southmost entrance on 74th Street. Go to room 256 on the 2nd floor. Please arrive promptly, so testing can be completed before 10:00 p.m. Bring along your original license and two (2) good quality photocopies, plus two forms of identification, such a ~~driver's license~~, etc. Also required are a pen and \$5.00 for the exam fee. WALK-INS are welcome. To register in advance, use a post card: print the grade of license you are applying for, and your name, address, and telephone number. Send the card to MRAC/VEC, c/o Jack Krause, W9JK, 1737 North 116th Street, Wauwatosa, WI 53226, or to Ed Sergua, KE9JJ, 3840 South 43rd Street #21, Milwaukee, WI 53220. Telephones: (414) 774-6999 or (414) 545-6299.

#### BADGER EXAMINERS (BE) - MILWAUKEE

Unless otherwise noted, examinations are administered beginning at 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St. Nicholas Church basement, 5345 N. Green Bay Ave. (2 1/2 blocks south of Silver Spring), Milwaukee. Walkins are welcome. To register in advance, send a post card with your name, test or tests you wish to take, date you wish to take, your call sign, address and telephone number to Badger Examiners, Gary J. Sharbuno, WI9M, 5119 W. Willow Rd., Brown Deer, WI 53223. Telephone (414) 355-0237.

#### MADISON, WISCONSIN (ARRL/VEC)

Feb. 23, 1991 & April 5, 1991

Exams will be held at Fire Station #2, 421 Grand Canyon Dr. (Across for Chi-Chi's restaurant. The test sessions begin promptly at 8:00 a.m.

#### EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN

1991 dates: Jan. 12, Apr. 13, Jul. 27, & Oct. 12

Exams given at the UW/EC Maintenance/Central Stores Building, except for July 27, which will be at the 4-H Fairgrounds Hamfest site. Info from Carl Searing, W9NW, (715) 834-1303.

#### RACINE, WISCONSIN - ARRL/VEC

Monthly - first Saturday, except January, July, and August.

Exams are given at 9:00 a.m. at the Red Cross Building, 4521 Taylor Avenue, Racine. Walkins are permitted. Inquiries and registrations should be directed to William Firchow, Jr., NW9P, 1912 27th Street, Kenosha, WI 53140, telephone (414) 658-8390.

#### DUBUQUE, IOWA - ARRL/VEC

Exam dates for 1991 are: March 9, June 8, September 7, and December 7.

The Great River Amateur Radio Club VEs are now field stocked, which means retests can be given immediately.

Exams are held at 9:00 a.m. at the Central Fire Station, 9th and Central in Dubuque. Use the basement entrance on 9th Street. For more info, contact Mike Jozefowicz, NSOU, 2735 Hickory Hill, Dubuque IA 52001, or call Mike at (319) 582-8563. Talkins are on the 147.84/24 and 147.63/03 repeaters. -- (Thanks Art Evans, KA9KLZ)

#### Tomahawk, WI

Last Saturday of every month.

Jan. thru Oct.

Tomahawk Volunteer Examiners (ARRL/VEC). Tomahawk, WI. No preregistration required, but appointment would be appreciated. Registration at 8:30 a.m. and testing starts at 9:00 a.m. For location or other information, inquire on 145.43 MHz. repeater or contact: Greg Garner, WA9W, 4088 Highway 51, Harshaw, WI 54529. Telephone (715) 453-7096.

#### DUBUQUE, IOWA (ARRL/VEC)

Exams are at 9 a.m. in the Central Fire Station at 9th and Central in Dubuque. Use the basement entrance on 9th Street. Contact Mike Jozefowicz, NSOU, 2735 Hickory Hill, Dubuque, Iowa, telephone 319-582-8563. Talkins are on the 147.84/24 and 147.63/03 repeaters. (Thanks Art Evans, KA9KLZ)

#### Loves Park, IL

Third Saturday of every month. Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners (DeVry VEC). Held at North Suburban District Library, 6340 North Second St. (Hwy. 251), Loves Park, IL. Contact: Dennis G. Eksten, W9SS, 5006 N. Second St., Loves Park, IL 61111. (815) 877-6768.

#### MINNESOTA TESTS

Locations and contacts:

St. Paul Radio Club (SPRC)  
St. Lukes School (cafeteria)  
1065 Summit Ave.  
St. Paul, MN  
contact: Jay Bellows (612) 222-7253

Bloomington Amateur Radio Club (BARC).  
Creskide Community Center.  
98th and Penn Ave. So.  
Bloomington, MN  
contact: Art Putt (612) 881-7181

SE Metro Area Radio Club (SEMARC)  
St. Thomas Aquinas Activity Bldg.  
920 Holly Ave.  
St. Paul Park, MN  
contact: David Harrell (612) 459-1647

The above Minnesota test are listed as a help to readers near or traveling thru the area. If you are interested in any of these, please save this listing as we may not always have space available to list them. Thanks to "Ground Wave" for the above information.

This section of Badger State Smoke Signals is available to publicize your Volunteer Examiner Amateur Radio license examination schedules. Please send us your schedules of dates, times, and locations that you will be conducting examinations and we will include the information here. Be sure to include contact address and any other necessary requirements. Information should be sent to K9EN at the address shown on page 2.

# Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

## Wisconsin Nets

Net	WNA	Freq.	UTC	CST	Mgr.
BWN	Yes	3984	1200	0600	W9AYK
BEN	Yes	3985	1800	1200	N9IAI
WSBN	Yes	3985	2330	1730	K9UTQ
WNN	Yes	3723	2400	1800	KA9FVX
WSSN	Yes	3645	0030	1830	N9BDL
WIN/E	Yes	3662	0100	1900	WB9ICH
WIN/L	Yes	3662	0400	2200	W9NGP
NWTN	Yes	34/34	0030	1830	N59Q
(Rhinalander area)					
6:30 Net	No	01/61	0030	1830	KA9OMC
Gr. Bay	No	72/12	0245	2045	WB9NRK
(Green Bay area)					
ARES	No	4.65/5.25	0200	2000	
(South East/South Central Wisconsin)					
RACES	No	3983.5	1815	1215	WC9AAG
(USB Tuesday and Thursday)					
RACES	No	3983.5	1400	0800	WA9DAY
(LSB Sunday)					

## Section Manager's Notes

Richard R. Regent, K9GDF  
5003 South 26th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53221



Congratulations to W9DLY for 50 continuous years as an ARRL member.

Would you like free training to prepare for emergency communications? Then please contact our Section Emergency Coordinator, WB9SMM of Milwaukee, to get in touch with your local expert.

Thanks to Rock River RC for inviting me to their Christmas Party as guest speaker; RRRC nets meet Saturdays on 7.277 or 3.985 MHz (depending on band conditions) at 11:00 a.m., and Mondays on 146.04 MHz at 7:30 p.m.

New officers of ManCoRad: pres. KA9ZTF; v.p. WW9P; treas. KB9ESU; secy. K9LWI.

West Allis RAC: pres. K9WTF; v. pres. W9YCV; secy. WA9POV; treas. WD9AYD.

Green Bay Mike and Key Club: pres. WA9SWX; v.p. KA9BXG; secy. KE9AS; treas. KA9VRK.

Four Lakes ARC has 148 members, and is now using recycled paper for their newsletters.

Sheboygan County ARC will hold their Valentine Party February 15th.

Exams on February 2nd in Racine and the 23rd at Tomahawk and Madison.

Milwaukee RAC will again have their all-classes amateur license school on nine Wednesdays

## Summary of Sept. 8 Meeting at Hartman Creek State Park

Meeting called to order by Art Evans, KA9KLZ. Pres. WA9W not in attendance.

The secretary read the minutes of the last meeting, held at Stevens Point, at their Hamfest. N9BDL motion to accept the minutes as read. K9FHI seconded the motion; motion carried.

Treasurer's report given by W9CBE, Hale Blakely:

\$199.59 in account at St. Point

23.00 for shelter at Hartman Creek State Park

50.00 for refreshment at Hartman Creek State Park

25.00 for stamps

62.32 for prizes at Hartman Creek State Park

19.00 from Boosters

Twenty eight people signed up the meeting today.

WB9ICH moved to accept treasurer's report. K9UTQ seconded motion. Motion carried.

## Election of Officers

WB9YPY, Jim Caldwell, nominated K9KSA, Don Stenz, for Chairman. K9FHI, Roy Pedersen, seconded nomination. KC9CJ, Dick Hugi, moved nominations be closed. N9BDL, Lee Andreas, seconded. K9KSA elected unanimously.

Roy Pedersen, K9FHI, nominated Bob Towns, N9IAI, for secretary. Les Peterson, W9YCV, seconded nomination. WB9YPY moved nominations be closed. N9BDL, Lee Andreas, seconded the motion. Unanimous vote for N9IAI for secretary.

W9CBE, Hale Blakely, nominated KY9P for treasurer. K9KSA, Don Stenz, seconded nomination. W9NSE nominated WV4E, Bob Strathy, for treasurer. Bob declined because he is only a part timer in Wisconsin. N9BDL, Lee Andreas, moved nominations be closed. K9FHI seconded the motion. Unanimous vote for KY9P for treasurer.

## Reports

Section Traffic Manager: STM Dick Hugi, KC9CJ, reported that all Net Managers are in place and sending in reports promptly. All nets operating very well. Really don't have any gripes about net operations.

Badger Weather Net: Dick Hugi, Net Manager, gave the report. BWN QNI is up to 64 average, up 5 per session from last year. BWN growing every year and is in great shape, and

at 7:30 p.m. starting March 13th; contact WB9BWP for more information.

February 18th Fox Cities ARC will feature Walt Hedges' computer and digital electronics

providing a good service for the Weather Bureau.

Badger Emergency Net: Net Manager Bob Towns reported QNIs are down from last year, due to summer doldrums and conditions. W9KKM has been filling in on Tuesday when KA9FVX gets caught at store and can't get home for net. W9NGT has also been helping whenever NCS doesn't show up.

Wisconsin Sideband Net: Gene Santoski, Net Manager, reports QNIs are steady. Traffic has been normal for summer months. NCS and traffic reps have been good at appearing at appointed times.

Wisconsin Slow Speed Net: Lee Andreas, Net Manager, says the Slow Speed Net is active on 3645.0 KHz at 6:30 p.m. local time. Lee says, "Come and join us any time. We will slow down anytime for anyone. Come and have some fun with us."

Wisconsin Intrastate Net/Early: Larry Guthu, WB9ICH, reports they could use some more stations checking in. Our regulars are here most every day. Still need more reps to go to 9RN every nite. W9KLN doing yeoman duty representing Wisconsin on 9RN.

Wisconsin Intrastate Net/Late: Report from Ed Rice, W9NGP, Net Manager. We need more checkins to move the traffic brought back from 9RN. Feel free to check in anytime on 3662.0 KHz at 10:00 p.m. There appears to be a need for a thru rep on WIN Late to take thru traffic the next day to 9RN Day. Ed says he will study the matter and come up with a solution and let all know. (Ed has appointed reps to take thru traffic to Day 9RN or BEN for relay.)

North Woods Traffic Net: Mary, Net Manager, reports QNIs of twelve to 24, with the average being eighteen to twenty per session.

## Other Business

N9IAI, Bob Towns, brought up the matter of the shabby treatment of WG9J, Stacy Garner, by the 9RN net. Stacey had been appointed net manager. Then, six months later, she got a message on the WSBN telling her that she had been removed as net manager, and that WA9OHX had been appointed as the new net manager; a message to be read when all could hear, to completely humiliate her. W9NSE, Clarence Graff, motioned to have a letter sent to Stacy, WG9J, in support, with a copy to K9GDF and the 9RN net manager (Day 9RN). Motion carried.

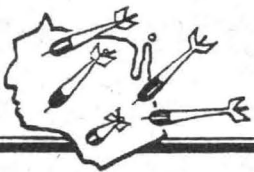
W9IHW, Gus Bonow, moved to adjourn. N9BDL, Lee Andreas, seconded. Motion carried, meeting adjourned.

(Please turn to page 12)

program.

Thought of the month: *If you can distinguish between good advice and bad advice, then you don't need advice.*





## HERE and THERE

**THE 1991 WISCONSIN QSO PARTY**, sponsored by the West Allis Radio Amateur Club, will be held from 1800Z March 10 to 0100Z March 11, 1991 (12 noon until 7:00 p.m., Sunday March 10). The rules, multiplier list, and a score summary form will be published in the next (February, 1991) issue of *Badger State Smoke Signals*, or you may request the information from the West Allis RAC, P.O. Box 1072, Milwaukee, WI 53201; see the WAAAC ad

on the last page of each issue of this newspaper.

**W1AW TO SHIFT 15 AND 10 METER CW FREQUENCIES:** Effective January 2, 1991, ARRL Headquarters station will transmit its code practice and CW bulletins on new frequencies in the 15 and 10 meter bands. The change is being made to avoid interference between W1AW and AMTOR operations, which have become very popular near the old frequencies that had been used by W1AW for many years. The new frequencies will be 21.0675 and 28.0675 MHz, 10 KHz lower than the old frequencies.

## Wait for SAREX Well Worth it

A "resounding success" is how organizers and participants are describing SAREX-2, the Amateur Radio operation by Ron Parise, WA4SIR, aboard the latest Space Shuttle. More than half of the two-way voice contacts scheduled with schools were completed, despite the Shuttle being over the southern hemisphere most of the time. More than 1500 robot packet contacts were made during the eight-day flight that ended December 10.

Parise began his space hamming by working his father, NZ8W, on 2-meter FM less than 24 hours after attaining orbit. The first of the school demonstration contacts - organized by the ARRL and AMSAT - was accomplished at 1600 UTC Dec. 4, with Jim Fonte, KK9T, in a classroom in New Carlisle, Indiana; the second, minutes later, was with Dave Cummings, WASTET, in Richardson, Texas.

Questions from school children often had Parise at a loss for words, resulting in some dead air and prompting one student to ask how long it takes radio signals to reach the Shuttle.

Because Columbia's attitude often had the front of the craft (where WA4SIR's antenna was located) facing away from the earth, there were occasional losses of signal. And the schedules with schools, always when the Shuttle was over the southern hemisphere, made relays from Brazil and Australia necessary.

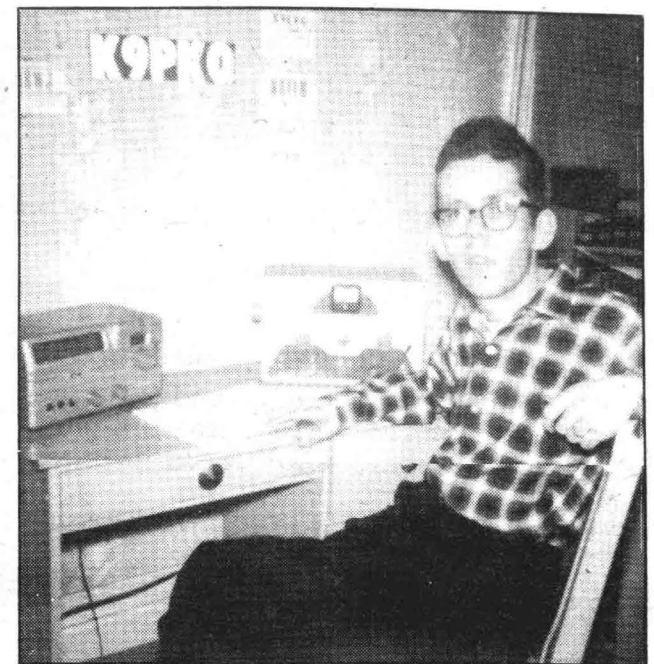
These relays were accomplished by PY2BJO, VK6IU, VK5AGR, and VK2AS, with Roy Neal, K6DUE, Doug Loughmiller, KO5I, and Bill Tynan, W3XO, acting as SAREX net control through the Darome Connection telebridge in Virginia.

The Goddard Amateur Radio Club, WA3NAN, in Greenbelt, Maryland, retransmitted SAREX happenings throughout the mission, allowing additional schools as well as casual listeners to eavesdrop. Members of the Johnson Spaceflight Center Amateur Radio Club were also invaluable in helping to coordinate the operation.

NASA support for Amateur Radio has been long and extensive, no doubt due in part to the many engineers who got their start in the hobby as youngsters. SAREX's objectives included getting young people to see the excitement of science and technology. AMSAT President Loughmiller said, "I'm convinced that in the last week the SAREX experiment changed a number of young people's lives. If we gave them a glimpse of the wonders of space, and they pursue technical careers, then SAREX was highly successful, and I want to do another one!"

Parise warmed up for his classroom contacts by exchanging greetings with other hams around the world via packet radio, using a robot TNC-2 and a hand-held transceiver. In addition to the 1500 or so contacts, Parise also made a few random voice contacts.

Says Russell Harris, N2IZV, who assisted

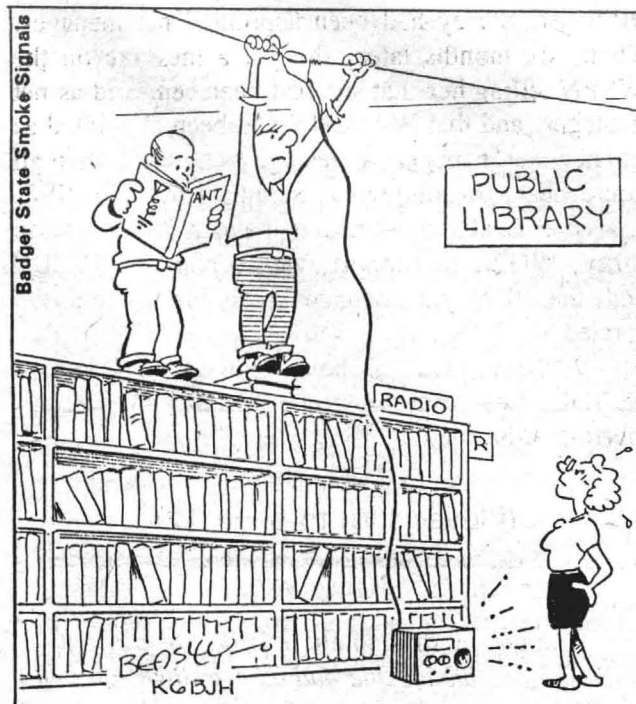


Your editor thought you might get a chuckle out of this photo. This IS your editor - in 1960, and a radio amateur for just two years. This station was at 416 6th Street in Baraboo. The transmitter was a Heathkit DX-20 - 50 watts and CW ONLY! The receiver was a National SW-54; a BC-455 command receiver was added later, and the antenna was a low dipole. This lashup worked Brazil (PY1ADA) on 40 meters one memorable evening - K9PKQ's first DX. Your editor had written (and sold!) his first magazine article late in 1959, and it was in 1960 that the article was published in the April issue of *Popular Electronics* ("An Unusual Amplifier" - an audio amplifier with a 6V6 cathode follower driving the speaker). It was interesting to note that your editor's article - with the last name of Romelfanger - was next to an article in that same issue by an author whose last name was Winklepleck.

Says Russell Harris, N2IZV, who assisted Webster, New York, school students, "We stirred a lot of interest in the ham community as well as with the public. My immediate problem is the 25 students who want to become hams."

- *The ARRL Letter*, 12/14/90, published by the American Radio Relay League, Newington, CT

Also see "Cosmonaut on the Air Again" on page 14 of this issue.



## Badger State Smoke Signals

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☐ 1 year ☐ 2 years ☐ 3 years ☐ New ☐ Renewal

Send this form, with your check or money order, to Jim Decker, WB9UQT, Treasurer, P.O. Box 337, Baraboo, WI 53913. **Please do not send cash!**



# *The Great Circus Parade: It's Gigantic and Joyous - and Ham Radio Helps Make it Work*

By Kelly Schaefer, N9HBN  
7445 North 53rd Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53223

It is Sunday, July 15, 1990. A dreary, desolate day is about to be awakened by the excitement and festivities of America's National Treasure, The Great Circus Parade.

The sidewalks reveal many people who have slept on their lawn chairs, just so they can have a good view of this annual event. These partly empty streets will soon be crowded with hundreds of thousands of people lining the two-mile route that the parade will follow.

## **Ham Radio: Helping from Day One**

Amateur Radio has played an important part in this parade since its very beginning, and has coordinated every parade and every Circus Train from Baraboo to Milwaukee. Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) activities begin many months in advance, as preparations are made for both the train trip and the parade. At least sixty hams are needed to handle the many different tasks that Amateur Radio is asked to do. Considerable logistics are necessary.

As in previous years, members of the Milwaukee/Waukesha Counties ARES have been busy all week, supporting the Circus Parade. The parade wagons and equipment travel from Baraboo to Milwaukee via a special circus train. The train leaves Baraboo on a Tuesday morning, and travels several hundred miles on a sight-seeing trip through southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois, arriving in Milwaukee on Wednesday afternoon at about 5 p.m. Throughout its journey, the train is greeted at every street crossing and train station by people just wishing to get a glimpse of this great spectacular from our nation's past.

On Monday, a team of ARES members arrives in Baraboo from Milwaukee/Waukesha, and begins to install communications equipment in one of the refurbished passenger cars of the train. This team will provide all communications for the hundreds of media, VIPs, and Circus World Museum (CWM) personnel who will ride the train for two days. Equipment consists of 2-meter and 70-cm Amateur Radio and cellular and IMTS telephones. Amateur Radio communications are maintained throughout the trip between the Circus Parade Office in Milwaukee and the train, using local repeaters in both Wisconsin and Illinois. In the past two years, packet radio has also been used.

One of the unique features on the train is the Amateur Television (ATV) setup. Ron Armstrong, WB9WRW, drives along the train route in his van, transmitting ATV pictures back to the train and to any other interested stations. Ron leapfrogs the train as the "Official Chase Car", and is usually set up at the next train station prior to the arrival of the train. This allows the media and VIPs on board to view



One of the most spectacular sights in the Great Circus Parade is the 40-horse hitch, shown here. This, along with the dozens of carefully restored, historic circus wagons from Baraboo's Circus World Museum, and beautiful costumes, attract hundreds of thousands of people to downtown Milwaukee every July. The parade is an authentic recreation of the circus street parades of long ago, when parades were used to advertise the circus to townspeople.

the crowd before the train enters the station area, and it also allows them to view themselves on the train as it pulls into the station. It has been a uniquely impressive introduction to Amateur Radio for those who have viewed the ATV pictures.

When the parade first began in the early 1960s, ARES had a Special Event station aboard the train, and special QSL cards were issued to those who contacted the station. But over the years, the number of personnel riding the train has grown considerably (as has the amount of communications required by those personnel), and the amount of space for the hams and their equipment is very restricted. Therefore, the Special Event station has not been active for years. All of the amateurs' time is spent making radio and telephone calls for the never-ending line of media, VIPs and CWM personnel. Amateur Radio is used to keep track of the train's location and for any emergencies that might arise.

Once it arrives in Milwaukee, the train is unloaded entirely by horse power (the real kind). Amateur Radio is not needed again until the day of the parade.

Sunday morning arrives early for the 64 members of the Milwaukee/Waukesha ARES. These 64 hams will be instrumental in the safe and efficient operation of the Great Circus Parade. This parade consists of over 100 antique circus wagons pulled by hundreds of horses, and numerous marching units

and antique cars. The parade takes more than two hours to pass any given point. There are well over 300,000 people lining the parade route, and the parade is also seen worldwide via the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) and Armed Forces Television. One of the narrators of the PBS telecast is Bob Keeshan, better known as Captain Kangaroo. One of the clowns appearing in the parade is actor Ernest Borgnine, who walks the route with his wife, Tova.

## **It Wasn't Always so Simple!**

Bob Goldstein, K9KJT, has been coordinating Amateur Radio participation in this event since its start in 1963. He has seen many changes since then. In 1963, the parade was covered by about a dozen ARES members. All communications originally were via mobile radios; there were very few portables then. The mobiles were each assigned to a Red Cross first aid station, which were also designated by Bob, and operated on two meters. (Some locations also had a plainclothes policewoman. - Ed.)

The mobiles would back up to the rear of the Red Cross vehicle, leaving a space for first aid operations, and open their trunks to keep the dynamotor-powered radios cool. Bob said, "The



open trunk lid would block the view of the parade, and people would keep closing the trunk so they could see." After each parade, there was at least one mobile that would require a jump start to get going again.

Back then, ARES tried its best to get AC electrical power supplied to the area where the reviewing stand operator would be. One year, the Milwaukee Street Department supplied electrical outlets tapped off the traffic lights. This was wonderful, until the operators set up on the day of the parade and discovered that the outlets were active only when the traffic signal was in the amber cycle. On another occasion, a local business agreed to allow ARES to tap off their ornamental street lights, only to find that the lights ran on DC power. The stories go on and on. Let's just say that in the early years the parade could be a logistical nightmare.

### What About Today?

Today, we have 64 amateurs assigned to 19 different locations. We operate two different two-meter nets on two ARES repeaters, and we have a third local repeater on standby. All of the amateurs have hand-held radios and extra battery packs. Several stations ("posts") have 70 cm capability. Net Control is located in the radio room at the Red Cross building, and is staffed by four ARES members who follow the progress of the parade on television. There are two ARES members at a fully functional Police Communications Center that is used for special events only. There are hams at the CWM tent on the show grounds and at the reviewing stand with the VIPs. A cellular telephone at the reviewing stand is furnished to the ARES operators. Operators are assigned as liaison to each of the four (ABC, CBS, NBC, and PBS) television networks that have crews here. And, the remainder of the ARES operators are assigned to the eleven Red Cross first aid stations lining the parade route.

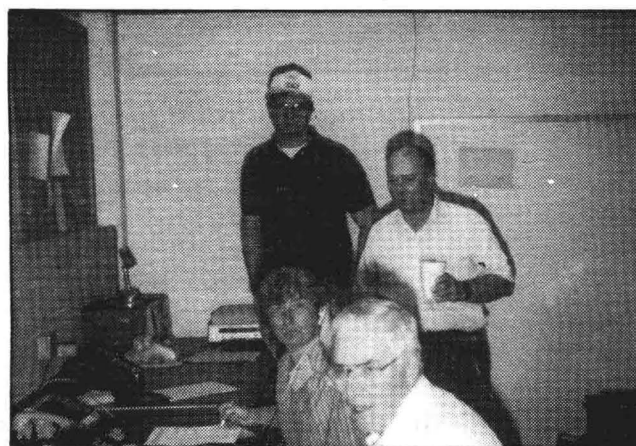
The operators at the Red Cross station have two duties. One person must remain at the first aid station at all times. Others are assigned to "Run Teams." These teams consist of two Red Cross volunteers and one Ham who will "run" to medical problems that cannot get to the first aid station on their own. Medical problems can be reported by people just showing up at the first aid stations, or via the Milwaukee Police Department, which has personnel stationed at every corner along the route. Net Control then determines the closest available Run Team and dispatches them to the scene of the emergency. The majority of the medical problems have been heat-related on those hot, muggy July days. Finally, one operator stays on the parade route adjacent to the first aid station to help in coordination of the parade.

For some of the 64 volunteer radio amateurs, this is their first year assisting with the Great Circus Parade; others are veterans. Twelve hams from the first Circus Parade in 1963 are here today, helping

Working on the parade can also be a family affair. John Dregenberg, K9BTG, marks his calendar early in the year so that he can return to Milwaukee to join his father, Don, W9PST. There is also Ron Crown, KA9JCP, and his wife,



This is a common sight along the route on the morning before the parade - people "camping out" to hold the best locations for good views of the parade.



Net Control is located at the Red Cross building. Operators in the photo are, from front to back, John Fiscus, KB9OM; Pat Noonan, KA9ZEK; Jack McLeland, W9ATK; and Mike Wesolowski, KA9TGN.



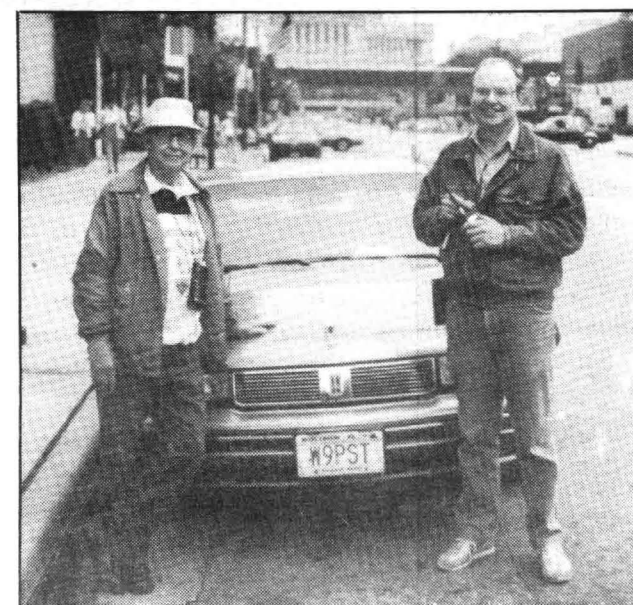
Mike Kadolf, KA9WAT, above, had his van's door crinkled while enroute to the parade.

Marianne, KA9KFU. Jim Noonan, Sr., KA9WKF, and Jim, Jr., WK9N, manned a Red Cross station, while Pat (Jim, Jr.'s wife), KA9ZEK manned Net Control.

Why is it that 64 Hams will give up eight hours on a Sunday to stand out in July's sweltering heat? Is it to watch the parade? No, very few of the amateur volunteers have time to watch the parade. Why, then? Well, it's hard to explain. For some, it's the opportunity to help others. For some, it's the chance to get together with friends at least once a year. But for all, it's the excitement. The festival atmosphere that overtakes the city when the Great



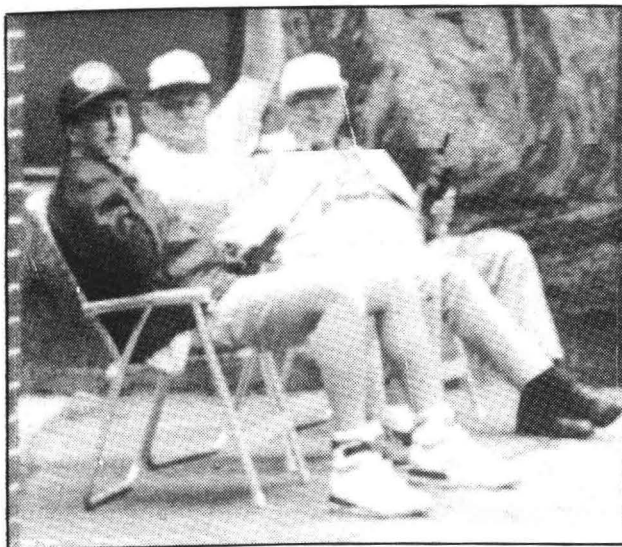
Well-armed with at least three portables, Bob Goldstein, K9KJT, prepares to board his vehicle. Bob coordinates Amateur Radio participation in the parade.



A father and son team helping with parade communications are John Dregenberg, W9PST, left, and Don Dregenberg, K9BTG.

Circus Parade is marching along is something to be experienced. It's that adrenaline rush of seeing the thousands of people around you coming together to enjoy the spectacle of a parade. It's the chance to feel the excitement, to see the unashamed wonder in a child's eyes as the parade passes, and to see adults becoming children again for a little while. It's that "feel good" feeling you get knowing that you have,





At their post, waiting for the parade, are, left to right, Rick Johnson, KA9VZD; Lloyd Gorsiski, WB9RGO; and Les Peterson, W9YCV.

at least in a small way, helped a great many people enjoy themselves for a while.

It's funny, isn't it? Whenever you ask a



In anticipation, we presume, of the rich aroma of elephant, Tom Murraugh, W9VBQ, left, holds his nose. Doug Price, KA9TXT, is wired for sound with his headset. A headset is a must for communications during a noisy parade!

volunteer why they volunteer, they say it is to help some organization through their labors. But it isn't really that at all, is it? It's to make themselves feel good about themselves, to give themselves a little bit of a recharge so that they can go on with their daily lives.

It rained off and on all day today. There was even a downpour near the end of the parade. But, for all that, the dreariness of that gloomy, wet day was wiped out by the bright glow of that "good" feeling that all of the ARES volunteers received.

Remember that the next time your local ARES group asks for some help. Join them and recharge yourself! □

Bob Goldstein, K9KJT, contributed to this story. The photos were taken by Kelly Schaefer, N9HBN, and Thomas Murtaugh, W9VBQ.

Milwaukee County ARES can always use more communicators for the Great Circus Parade, held annually in July. To offer your help - and to recharge yourself in grand fashion - contact Bob Goldstein, K9KJT, 6828 N. Barnett Lane, Milwaukee, WI 53217, or Milwaukee County Emergency Coordinator John Leekley, WB9SMM, on packet radio or at W169 N8480 Sheridan Drive, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051. □

## Racine Megacycle Club

R. Stephen Bellgraph,  
K9ZL, Secretary  
402 Shelly Drive  
Racine, WI 53405

10 December 1990

This month's meeting started out with a pot-luck dinner at the home of Rev. Jim McChesney, WA0PFV. Members and spouses enjoyed an excellent meal and fellowship, and then moved to Wustum Art Museum where we had been invited to hold our meeting.

Museum personnel started us off with a talk about the museum, how it came about being, its objectives, shows and gardens. The talk was followed by a conducted tour of the Watercolor Wisconsin show, now on display.

Formal meeting opened at 8:14.

Pete Kenzellmen, newly licensed as KB9KGS who found his way to our meeting thanks to reading BSSS, was introduced and invited to join us.

### Old Business

Nothing discussed.

### New Business

Pres. Dave, WB9USI, invited discussion of our upcoming banquet. The date is February 17, 1991, and will again be at the Racine Yacht Club. Cheryl, WS9P, reported that the committee had held its first meeting, and that a menu and final plans should be available at our January meeting.

Election of officers was held:

Dave Voss, WB9USI, was re-elected president.

## A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Saudi Arabia

If you are among the few of us who still get a big kick out of seeing the soft glow of filaments and enjoy the warmth emanating from within the old gray boxes, move over! We have a new fan in our midst: the United States Military!

Saddam Hussein is not the only thing acting up in the mideast desert. Some time ago, the Military phased out all of its Collins gear, mainly the classic KWM-2A, and purchased brand spanking new Harris solid-state equipment. As an aside, this is the same company which just set up the ARRL Headquarters station in Newington, CT.

Meanwhile, back in the desert, as part of Operation Desert Shield, the military techs were busy erecting support poles and stringing dipoles between them. All was well until the wind blew and the sand flew, resulting in Mother Nature's version of a Van de Graff static electricity generator. Down the coax and into the CMOS and FET front ends of all those nice, shiny, new, store-bought, fresh radios it came. Then.... silence.

One of the military techs remembered that a Collins engineer by the name of Dennis Brothers had been helpful in solving problems for the government in the past. Dennis, who incidentally was one of the main designers of the KWM-2, had since retired from Collins, and currently operates Western Nebraska Electronics in Potter, NE. Dennis earns his living by keeping those old gray boxes talking.

The saga of the front ends was related to me by Dennis when I called him to find out why it was taking so long for him to perk up one of my prized gray boxes. The military had shipped 24 KWM-2As for refurbishing ASAP. The government still had a few stashed in warehouses that we treasure hunters hadn't as yet found. Dennis tells me that he has now been hired by the Defense Department to travel around to various bases to teach military personnel the care and feeding secrets of the KWM-2.

For years, scientists have warned about the effects of EMP - electromagnetic pulse - as a result of a nuclear explosion. EMP would almost certainly wipe out the front end of of any solid state device. Again, the mighty Collins KWM-2 to the rescue. We have been laughing at the Russian military for years because they continued to use tube-type equipment. Apparently, they have the last laugh in this case.

Red-faced engineers from the designers and manufacturers of the bright, shiny, full-of-bells-and-whistles stuff promise a quick-fix to the sand-wind static electricity problem in the Saudi desert. Meanwhile, the late Art Collins is surely smiling down from the great Ham Shack in the Sky. So are the rest of us, who have always believed that "real radios glow in the dark."

- Jim White, W0NJB, in Watts Snoo,  
Central Wisconsin Radio Amateurs,  
Stevens Point, WI, via Bob Baird, W9NN

Brian Roosa, WD9FRH, becomes vice-president.

Arne Moxnes, KA9ZPY, takes over as secretary.

David Geschke, WB9ZIO, remains as treasurer.

Dave, WB9SVM, suggested that we contact

Johnsons to make arrangements for use of the same area for our 1991 Field Day. K9ZL agreed to take care of the matter as his last job as secretary.

Motion was made and accepted to close the meeting at 8:28.

K9ZL, Secretary





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## Silent Keys

A. Cuyler "A.C." Ramage, WB9RBC, of Princeton, died unexpectedly Tuesday, December 4, 1990, while shoveling snow after a blizzard. A.C. was an active member of the Green Fox Amateur Radio Club. □

Art Escher, WA9WUS, rural Lodi, died of cardiac arrest on December 7, 1990. Art was a Charter Member of the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club. □

## Wisconsin Radio Museum a Legacy from Richard Radke, WB9UFD

Richard Radke, WB9UFD, Balsam Lake, Wisconsin, founder of the Wisconsin Antique Radio and Phonograph Society, died of cancer on July 10, 1990. Dick owned a vast collection of antique radios, the result of many years of avid radio collecting. He had received extensive training in radio and TV repair, and was about to open a radio shop in Wautoma, WI.

Shortly after learning of his illness, Dick, along with other interested collectors, founded the Wisconsin Antique Radio and Phonograph Society. It was also his wish to see an antique radio museum established in Wautoma. Before his death, Dick donated his entire collection, as well as a building, to this cause.

Enthusiasm has been great about the new club and the museum. In his memory, with the support of other collectors, hopefully Dick's and his wife's dream can come true.

For further information about the Wisconsin club or the museum, please contact Jerome or Debbie Schliepp, 831 Berlin Rd., Ripon, WI 54971, telephone (414) 748-2471.

- Antique Radio Classified, October, 1990, via K9GDF

- 2 Dentron Super Tuners, 160 - 10M, 1 KW.
- 1 Hallicrafters SX-101 receiver.
- 1 Palomar Model 500 SWR/Wattmeter.
- 1 Globe VFO, 160 - 10 meters remote VFO.
- 1 Goldline power meter, 1 KW.
- 1 Superior Instrument Co. Model TV-11 tube tester.
- 1 Vanco Model SWR-7 SWR meter.
- 1 Allied Knight Kit 50-watt CW transmitter, with Globe Model SM-90 Screen Modulator for AM

operation. Manuals for both included.

Several old tube-type CB radios, including a tube-type AM/SSB/DSB 23 channel transceiver.

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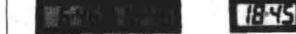
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# Hams Help Track Alleged Jammer

Another alleged radio jammer has been silenced, due in part to the efforts of Amateur Radio operators. On November 6, U.S. marshals and engineers from the FCC's Langhorne, PA field office seized radio equipment, belonging to Ernest Woods, 30, of Norristown, believed to have been used to interfere with Philadelphia-area 2-meter Amateur repeaters, as well as frequencies of the Pennsylvania State Police, the Norristown fire department, and other public service agencies.

Woods could face serious civil and criminal charges as a result. Woods was issued Novice class amateur license KA3WHZ in May 1990, and a Technician license in August.

In late June, users of the Telford (PA) Area Repeater Association (TARA) began to experience "persistent and purposeful interference" to their 145.190 MHz repeater. In early August, the TARA executive committee and TARA's control operators met to discuss the situation, after the jammer had gotten access, apparently through trial and error, to the repeater's phone patch and speed dial codes.

Concerned for the integrity of the repeater's emergency service codes, TARA on August 8, changed these services to "controlled access," and at the same time began efforts to pinpoint the source of the interfering signal. Standard Amateur fox-hunting techniques soon narrowed the source of the signal to a neighborhood of Norristown, about 20 miles from downtown Philadelphia.

On August 27, a preliminary formal complaint - with tape recordings - was filed by TARA's president with the Engineer in Charge of the FCC field office in Langhorne, PA. Area ARRL and repeater officials were at that time notified of the situation.

On September 2, a team once again tracked "Barney," as they called the jammer, and concluded that additional equipment would be needed to positively identify the specific house from which the signal was being transmitted.

On September 6, a TARA official and one from the Fairview Village 2-meter repeater joined forces, using a Doppler Systems direction finding unit to localize the source of the signal to the same area.

Four days later, a station was copied interfering with several Pennsylvania State Patrol channels in the 159-MHz range. A TARA official monitored the police frequencies long enough to confirm to his satisfaction that the interfering operator probably was the TARA repeater jammer.

TARA informed the Pennsylvania State Police of their on-going search for their repeater jammer, and were told the cops had been forced to move to alternate frequencies because of the jammer.

As word spread through various agencies, interference to the state police continued, with Barney telling the troopers to "drop dead" and at one point making false report of an accident.

By Sept. 12 the FCC had stepped in, to act on complaints both from TARA and from the state police. Engineer-in-Charge John Rahtes asked for TARA's assistance: Rahtes needed a safe house in the immediate neighborhood where his agency could set up equipment to monitor the jammer, identify him, and gather legal evidence.

A vacant third floor apartment was located a half-block from the suspected source of the signal and the FCC installed its equipment, including gear capable of identifying transmitters by their signal signatures. TARA personnel assisted the FCC in monitoring over the next few weeks.

## "Barney" Feels the Heat

Barney at this point apparently became suspicious and for several days curtailed his transmitting.

Additional transmissions were noted on the TARA repeater, and on state police, county radio, and the Norristown Fire Department frequencies, as Barney gradually resumed operations beginning the weekend of Sept. 15-16. FCC engineers meanwhile narrowed the source down to a particular house in the congested area.

For the next two weeks monitoring increased, as efforts began to identify the occupants of the house, which appeared to be divided into apartments. Any search warrant issued would have to be for a specific apartment, rather than for the whole building.

At the end of September, the U.S. Attorney was presented with evidence gathered up to that time. Montgomery County Communications Chief Dennis Parker and Norristown Fire Department Chief Joe DeDominic were asked to provide evidence they had gathered about interference to their operations and to file formal complaints.

In early October the jamming increased, and included harassment of the Norristown F.D. on Oct. 20, 23, and 26. In one transmission, Barney tried to recall several trucks from a fire call. By that time, the fire department had filed a formal complaint with the FCC.

On Oct. 19, U.S. marshals and FCC personnel, acting on a search warrant issued by the U.S. Attorney, entered the suspect house. But, no radio equipment was found.

**JANUARY 4, 1983**

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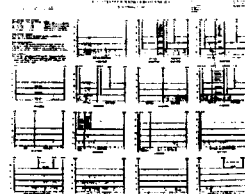
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Although the raid was a disappointment, the FCC continued its probe. The landlord of the row house next to the house that had been searched told Rahtes that one of his tenants was known to have several radios and antennas in his room at the front of the building. The landlord supplied additional information, such as the tenant's work hours, which seemed to confirm that this individual was the likely suspect.

From the landlord's first floor apartment Rahtes took field strength measurements, and was able to hear Barney operating his equipment through the thin walls of the building.

On Nov. 1, the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service repeater in Eagleville, PA, reported unauthorized access to its 911 emergency system. RACES net members were being beeped day and night, adding to the FCC's case for securing another search warrant, which soon was issued.

TARA president E.C. "Gene" Pressler, W3ZXV, joined FCC personnel and U.S. marshals to enter the suspect premises. Several pieces of radio equipment were discovered, along with a directional antenna suspended from the ceiling, and other evidence.

Pressler then operated the suspect's equipment as FCC engineers Barry Peahota and Frank Hurst made recordings of the signal, for later signal and voice print analysis comparison with taped jamming transmissions.

Included among the equipment confiscated were two hand-held transceivers, as well as several scanners, most of which were in operation at the time of the search. At (ARRL Letter) presstime, no charges had yet been filed against Woods.

- The ARRL Letter, November 29, 1990

Published by the American Radio Relay League

## Swapfest Review: KMRA Swapfest

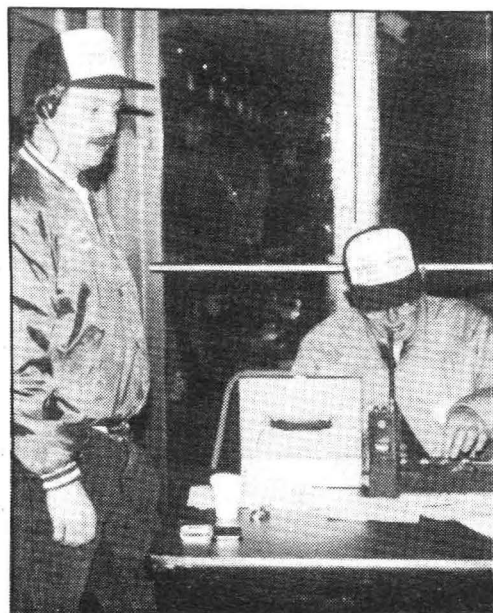
By Richard R. Regent, K9GDF  
5003 South 26th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53221

There is still ample free parking when I arrive at 8:00 a.m. on October 17, 1990. The Kettle Moraine Radio Amateur folks inside the Waukesha Expo Center at the entrance table are friendly, handle tickets fast, and answer questions quickly. Just when most swapfesters are snugly inside, have their tables set up or are combing rows for goodies, Mother Nature can no longer hold back a rain downpour. The metal roofs of the buildings begin thumping with the soothing sound of thousands of water drops.

There is action everywhere. Food and beverages are available. A crowd gathers around the Custom Caps table. Passersby are fascinated with computer entries which move letters on a monitor screen used to design cap and nametag wording.

There are tons of familiar parts and cable vendors - Cable X-Perts, Coax Connection, Denny's Parts, and Ace Electronics. Burk Electronics has a complete selection of ARRL and other books, as well as antennas and many new transceivers. Tower Electronics has several tables of parts displayed neatly in small red plastic baskets, well lit with gooseneck incandescent lamps. There are also batteries, computers, motion sensors, rolls of stretchy tape, large digital clocks, and used equipment. One vendor has Call Word, a three-dollar homemade computer program which helps find the best phonetics for an Amateur call.

A wealth of information is available from K9IZV, who represents the Friendly 146.91 Milwaukee Repeater Group. Waukesha County Technical College has WA9CQV, Dr. Bob Barnier, to answer questions about electronics training. Bob describes the concepts of his four-exchange telephone demonstration, including busy signals,



The registration desk was a busy spot.



Warren Schall, K9IZV, handed out information about Milwaukee's Friendly 146.91 Repeater Group.

dial tones, local area networks, and an oscilloscope display.

The clear public address system is sparingly used to announce prize winners and to give information about the Amateur Radio exams held in the south Forum Building. Although



A large crowd enjoyed browsing through the many and varied goodies offered for sale at the KMRA Swapfest.

- Photos courtesy Rich Regent, K9GDF

attendance appears the same as last year, Fest officials say attendance is slightly better because, instead of dispersing vendors everywhere, one full row in the South Hall is dedicated to them and the other five rows of tables are left empty for ease of movement of the fest attendees. The crowd is kept inside as drizzle turns to rain again about 11:30

a.m. KMRA members are already promoting the 1991 Swapfest, handing out flyers and arranging the same tables or locations with vendors and marking on table maps. Some latecomers are admitted free.

The KMRA was a pleasant place to be on a rainy day. □

## Milwaukee Club Offers Licensing Classes

The H. Charles Kaetel Amateur Radio School of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club is again offering amateur license classes for all grades of Amateur Radio licenses.

Classes will be held every Wednesday from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. beginning March 13, 1991, and ending May 15, 1991. There will be nine sessions. Classes will not be held on April 3, which is during the Spring holiday. Classes will be conducted at Wauwatosa East High School at 74th and Milwaukee Avenue (Vliet Street). A \$12.00 fee will be charged for the course. The necessary books and supplies will be available at the first class sessions.

Students may register in advance by sending a note, along with a check for the class fee, to the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, P.O. Box 91, Milwaukee, WI 53201. Inquiries will be answered at (414) 529-5583 after 8 p.m., or at (414) 362-3634 between 12 noon and 3 p.m.

- Ed Sergua, KE9JJ



# WB9SMM: Just an SEC?

By Richard R. Regent, K9GDF

0003 South 26th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53221

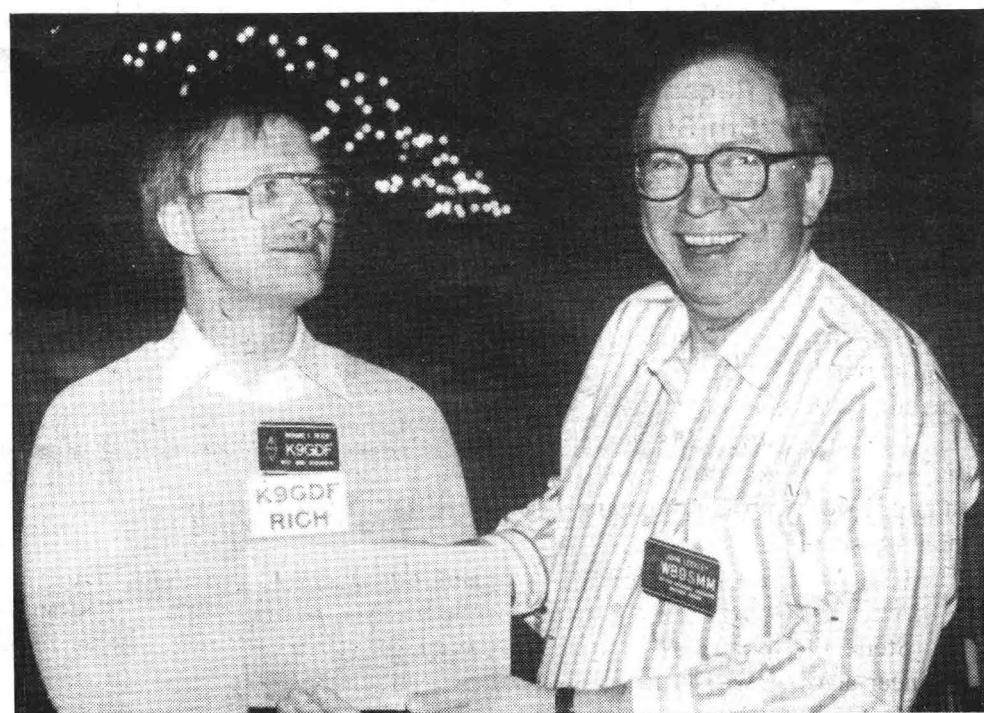
John D. Leekley, Jr., WB9SMM, handles more American Radio Relay League duties than you can shake a banana tree at. John is our Emergency Coordinator for Milwaukee and Waukesha counties, District Emergency Coordinator for southeast Wisconsin, and Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) for Wisconsin. As SEC, John encourages all groups of community amateurs to establish a local emergency organization, and promotes Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) membership drives, meetings, activities, tests, and procedures. WB9SMM maintains contact with other communications services, such as the American Red Cross, the National Weather Service, and Emergency Government offices, to coordinate Amateur Radio activities.

Milwaukee is proud of its annual City of Festivals Parade; John is there to coordinate and direct the amateur communications vital to the parade's success. The Great Circus Parade, also held in Milwaukee, has around 65 volunteer ham communicators, is watched by several hundred thousand spectators, and is viewed by millions more as it is televised worldwide. Hams keep information moving throughout vast areas of runs, walks, and public events for first aid, vehicle breakdowns, lost children, and official instructions.

John's interest in weather watching began with the strong winds on the island of Saipan in 1967 while working in the Peace Corps. "Banana typhoons were about 90 m.p.h., because they seem to damage only banana trees," John recalls. But one day Typhoon Jean came to visit. "We were warned that she would arrive about 3:30 in the afternoon. But by 3:00 the winds were already picking up fiercely. I ran to the concrete remains of a nearby home, relatively safe crouched inside, but still amidst some very dangerous weather." The destruction and noise is intense, and people are in shock.

The airport anemometer that measures wind speed is blown away with the dial stuck at 185 miles per hour. Unfortunate locals who do not live in concrete houses take shelter in caves. Islanders' tin homes twist and then are torn to bits by the wind. Jean, a giant shredder gone wild, flings metal strips into the air - spinning knives that do more damage and add to the debris. Some homes completely disappear. Typhoon Jean flattens the island. Amazingly, though, there are no deaths; only communication, electric and telephone are dead. After surviving this firsthand weather experience, John became an active weather observer and enthusiast.

John learned that the ham bands and modes had good quality, compared to the government inter-island frequencies, which still primarily used Morse code and RTTY. So, he became interested in Amateur Radio as part of weather observing. Back in 1970, John worked for the United States Trust Territory of



Wisconsin Section Manager Richard Regent, K9GDF, left, presents a list of Q-signals to Section Emergency Coordinator John Leekley, WB9SMM.

- Photo by Barb Regent, N9DLJ

Pacific Islands, and had the call KG6SV. For three years he participated in the Micronesia Net, which spans the Pacific on 20 meters for emergency traffic and phone patch needs. Then, in 1972, he attended Law School, and had the call WA3TRM. After graduation, John moved to Wisconsin and exchanged calls to get his current call, WB9SMM.

John works in downtown Milwaukee at his own law firm, specializing in taxes, trusts, and estate planning.

John has been working hard to develop packet radio as a vital means of communication in emergencies because of its accuracy and hard copy output. These capabilities are appreciated by officials of the served agencies. In the National Disaster Medical Drill he used an ARES-DATA program to provide on-line information. He also is searching for qualified candidates to fill all Wisconsin counties with Emergency Coordinators (ECs), and to train ARES non-club repeater groups. WB9SMM is a well-liked, enthusiastic volunteer who demonstrates a caring and organized leadership style.

A list of the counties and areas needing Emergency Coordinators and District Emergency Coordinators was published in the December, 1990 issue of BSSS.

## Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

(Continued from page 4)

### Meeting Attendance

Art Evans	KA9KLZ
Rob Wilcken	KA9GBE
Bob Towns	N9IAI
Les Peterson	W9YCV
Larry Guthu	WB9ICH
Michel Roy	K9GU
Don Stenz	K9KSA

Jim Caldwell  
Clarence Jahnke  
Gus Bonow  
Clarence "Bud" Graff  
Bob Strathy  
Ed Rice  
Wayne Schanke  
Paul Amend  
Roy Pedersen  
Gary Pedersen  
Lee Andreas  
Fred Becker  
Hale Blakely  
Chuck Taylor  
Dick Hugi  
Gene Santoski  
Keith Shilhavy

WB9YPY  
WA9YVC  
W9IHW  
W9NSE  
WV4F  
W9NGP  
KE9VU  
KA9OBP  
K9FHI  
KA9BAE  
N9BDL  
W9KKM  
W9CBE  
KZ9V  
KC9CJ  
K9UTQ  
KY9P

Respectfully submitted:

Robert F. Towns, Secretary WNA

A summary of the Dec. 1 meeting will appear in February, 1991, BSSS.

## Amateur Service Morse Exam Rules for Disabled are Amended by FCC

The Federal Communications Commission announced on December 13 that it has amended its rules to make the Amateur Service more accessible to handicapped or disabled licensees who are unable to pass a higher speed Morse code examination.

The FCC decided to decline to provide a list of disabilities. Instead, the judgment of a qualified physician will be relied upon to determine that a person cannot pass a Morse code examination due to a severe handicap.

In response to concerns about the integrity of the process, FCC staff said anyone abusing the process would be dealt with harshly.

The FCC affirmed that, because of international requirements, no exemptions would be granted for the 5 WPM Morse code requirement.

- ARRI, Bulletin 53 12/13/90

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• 160-10m (570') \$99.95  
• 80-10m (290') \$79.95  
• 40-10m (142') \$64.95  
• 200' Dacron 250# line \$11.95  
spec. coax, airline feed



# New STM, Don Stenz, K9KSA

By Richard R. Regent, K9GDF

5003 South 26th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53221

Donald J. Stenz, K9KSA, is our new ARRL Section Traffic Manager for Wisconsin. He has been active in Amateur Radio group activities, repeaters, and has been handling traffic for over 30 years on CW and phone nets.

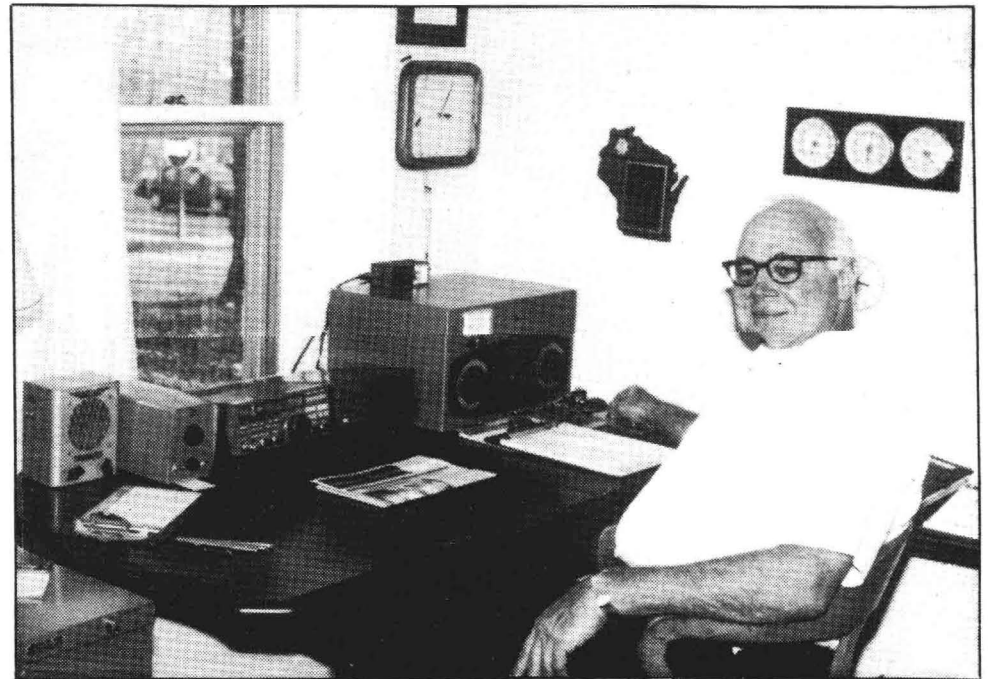
Don graduated from the Milwaukee School of Engineering in 1959 with a bachelor's degree. He taught classes and was the trustee for club station W9HHX from about 1960 to 1963. I was in one of his AM-FM transmitter classes, and operated W9HHX frequently.

Don got his master's degree from U.W. Madison in 1966, and worked on his doctoral dissertation in statistical communication theory there in 1970. Don should have no trouble keeping track of our traffic, net, or PSHR reports or monthly statistics!

K9KSA was editor of the *Wisconsin Radio Amateur Herald*, a terrific newsletter, over a fifteen year period while he lived in Madison and Wausau.

Stenz knows lots about electronics, so for a while he worked as chief engineer at WAOW-TV in Wausau and as chief engineer and station manager at WSCO-TV in Suring.

Since 1985, Don has returned to M.S.O.E. as a full-time professor in their Electrical Engineering department. Don and his wife Pat keep busy with their



Donald J. Stenz, K9KSA

Photo by Les Peterson/W9YCV

Brookfield home and putting their kids through college. □

## Product Review

### AR-1000 Wide Range Monitor Receiver

For quite some time, I had been waiting for the ICOM IC-R1 receiver to become available in the U.S.A. After hearing a variety of reasons as to why it wasn't being imported to the U.S.A., I decided to buy an AR-1000 receiver from Ace Communications.

First, the good news. I placed my order on a Monday, and had the receiver in only two days. More good news: the receiver does everything Ace Communications says it will.

Connected to an 80-meter inverted-V antenna, I was able to hear international shortwave broadcasts. Ham band coverage isn't practical, because there is no BFO for CW or SSB reception.

Tuning further up the RF spectrum, I eavesdropped on the CB crowd. Switching to a two meter Ringo antenna, I could hear an abundance of high band business radio users, along with police and fire departments. On the two meter band, I heard repeaters I didn't even know existed. In the wideband FM mode, broadcast stations were heard on most of the assigned frequencies from 88-108 MHz. Although the AR-1000 is capable of receiving aircraft frequencies, I haven't listened to the "aero bands."

During the blizzard of December 3, I spent a considerable amount of time listening to weather forecasts from the National Weather Service, as well as police accounts of stranded motorists and impassible streets. The AR-1000 also does an admirable job of picking up 800 and 900 MHz signals with just the rubber duckie antenna supplied with the unit.

Now for the bad news. The operating instructions provided with the AR-1000 lack detail, and are really inadequate for a receiver of this

calibre. For example, the liquid display features over 12 different indications of what the receiver is doing. However, they aren't all explained in the four-page operating instructions or in the one-page operation outline. Specifically, the low battery indicator flashes "BATT" when the nicads are nearly exhausted. This feature isn't mentioned in the instructions.

The instructions also don't describe any of the shortcuts that can be used while programming the scan channels. For example, according to the instructions, the user must press "manual" before programming a scan channel. However, if the receiver is already in the manual mode, this step is unnecessary.

Another of my observations pertains to the scanning of only certain banks. Before going any further, I should point out that the AR-1000 has ten banks of 100 channels each, for a total of 1000 channels. These banks are numbered from 0 to 9, rather than from 1 to 10. Now, suppose you want to scan only bank number 9. After you put the receiver in the program mode, the instructions direct you to enter the lower scan bank number, then the upper scan bank number to set an upper limit to which channels the unit will scan. Surprise! If you enter 10 as the upper scan bank limit, the receiver won't accept that number because there is no bank 10. If you enter zero, the receiver will begin scanning in bank zero. How can you scan only bank nine? It seems to me that the trick is to use the same bank number as both the upper and lower scan limits. Then the unit will scan only one bank.

All things considered, the AR-1000 is an exceptional receiver. The wide range of frequencies it covers makes it ideal for scanner enthusiasts who want to listen to a variety of different radio services without having multiple radios for different bands. (The AR-1000 is one of the very few scanning receivers capable of tuning the 220 MHz ham band.) My only criticism of the receiver is that the instructions provided with the unit are woefully inadequate.

- John W. Frank, WB9TQG

### AR-1000 Specifications

Frequency coverage	8-600 and 805-1300 MHz
Sensitivity	.35 $\mu$ V NBFM, 1.0 $\mu$ V WBFM, 1.0 $\mu$ V AM
Audio output	400 milliwatts
Power	9 to 13.8 volts DC
Antenna connector	BNC
Display	LCD w/switchable backlight
Weight	12 ounces

### Decimal Point Virus Infected John's Junk Box!

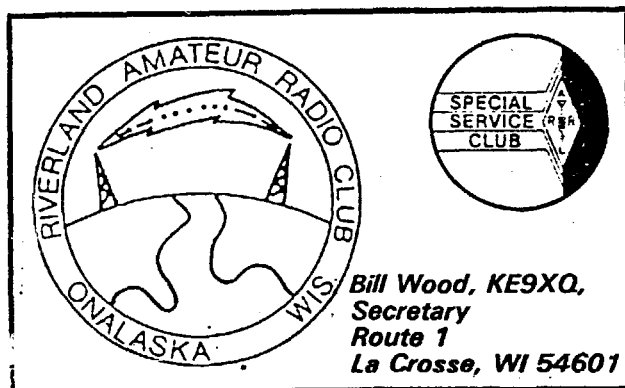
The dreaded decimal point virus struck John's Junk Box in the November issue of *Badger State Smoke Signals*. The proper value of the shunt should have been .173 ohms, instead of 1.73 ohms. The resistance per foot of #28 wire should have been .06617 ohms, not .6617 ohms. The length of wire needed to make the shunt remained the same, slightly less than 3 feet.

73, John W. Frank, WB9TQG  
P.O. Box 5113, Madison, WI 53705

### RARE DX QSL CARD DELIVERED IN PERSON







## Greetings.

Dick Low, K0JYB, called our regular monthly meeting to order, and announced because of the weather, he knew of several who couldn't make it, and figured others would be in the same situation. (We just had a good snow.)

The last month's minutes were then called for, and accepted as read from the BSSS.

Next, Arby Boomer, WF9T, gave the treasurer's report, and also presented a summary of the last year's expenditures.

Van Elston, WA9FIO, then gave his repeater report, noted that everything was going great, expressed his thanks for the position and cooperation, etc., and requested removal from the technical committee. Van said he's been on long enough, and we have many capable, willing minds amongst our group, and would like to share the opportunity with them. (Wish you'd stay, Van, but thanks from all of us.)

Rick Williams, KV9U, shared his findings on the use of the community center for meetings on other than the first Tuesdays, and it's almost impossible unless we book it a year or so in

advance, so for now at least we're stuck with the schedule we have, and can be thankful for this.

Walter Altus, WD9GCR, reported on our successful swap meet, and thanks for all the work you men have done; we look forward to bigger and better next year.

Van moved to have Dick send Ken Ebner, K9EN, a letter in regards to our involvement with the BSSS computer challenge, thanking *Smoke Signals* for the opportunity to assist the small way we have. Dean Summers, KQ0C, seconded this, and it passed.

Dick noted the repeater's call letters are being changed through the proper channels, and gave us a progress report.

I was asked for a report on the "CBers", and had to admit I'd not done much, except monitoring which frequencies are being used, and for what. I did note, though, that several of us have not only been talking on the subject, but a few men are thinking of joining the local sideband club that meets regularly on lower 16 and, hopefully, we'll make an impact this way. (Since the meeting, I've learned FCC has approved a no-code license, and this could be used for a good excuse to get down there on 11 meters.)

Charlie Burch, KA9UUK, moved to keep our club membership dues at \$15. Rick seconded this, and all were in favor.

Election was then held, and the following were the results:

President: Walter Altus, WD9GCR  
Vice-President: Charlie Burch, KA9UUK  
Secretary: Dean Summers, KQ0C  
Treasurer: Arby Boomer, WF9T.

Another good slate for the year.

Dick noted that, as of now, all previous committees are done away with, and Walter will start fresh for the year.

Meeting came to a close about 8:45.

## Attendance

Joe Mazera	WA9SOQ
Charlie Burch	KA9UUK
Ernie Gershon	K9ZVU
Dean Summers	KQ0C
John Jorenby	KA9ETH
Mike Warnok	WN9P
Bob Selbrede	KA9EZR
Dick Low	K0JYB
Walter Altus	WD9GCR
Arby Boomer	WF9T
Bill Wood	WB9VYI
Ralph Jahimiak	WA9ORE
Richard Fink	KB9FFJ
Rick Williams	KV9U
Nook Bentzen	K9EGO
Dallas Miller	K9LEC
Gary Webb	NI9V
Karl E. Simonson	KB9EQI
Art Osborn	W0JDC
Dick Konrad	K9DXO
Duane Fruechte	W9HWQ
Van Elston	WA9FIO

Minutes respectfully submitted by  
Bill Wood, KE9XQ, Sec., RARC

## Northern Wisconsin Radio Club

—Since 1923—

Steve Kraft, KE9RW  
Secretary  
Rt. 7, Box 62  
Menomonie, WI. 54751

The last meeting of the NWRC was held Nov. 27 at the WHWC Channel 28 transmitter site east of Wheeler.

Our business meeting was a bit shortened by the noise generated by all the equipment.

Steve, KA9OMC, reminded everyone of the ongoing project of having the members send us pictures of them operating in their shacks, so that we can print the fourth *Who's Who* book.

Steve also proposed to bring W9JS to life membership in NWRC. W9JS (ex-W9ARE), Clyde Richelieu, is the last remaining charter member of the NWRC. The motion passed, and W9JS will receive BSSS as an appreciation from the club. At 81 years young, W9JS is still building and playing the banjo across the U.S. (Please see our article on W9JS, "Mr. Banjo", in the next issue of BSSS.)

Also mentioned was the continued recovery of W2GFK, Jerome Stewart. At printing, Jerry had successful surgery at Abbott Northwestern Hospital,

and is following up at Luther in Eau Claire. Send your cards to Jerome Stewart, 319 Elm Ave., West Menomonie, WI 54751. We also wish N9JBN, Arlene, a speedy recovery from her recent fall.

After our meeting, a tour of the Wisconsin Public Television Station Channel 28 was conducted by employee Steve Bauder, NX9Z. This was a very good program, and everyone seemed to enjoy it. Our thanks to Steve and Ken, KE9CS (soon to be back at 28) for conducting this program. Also, thanks to Arlene, N9JBN, and President Steve, KE9RW, for helping out on the lunch.

The next meeting of the NWRC is January 22 at Rassbach Communications, 404 Ferry St., Eau Claire. Meeting time is 7:30 p.m.

Remember the annual auction Feb. 26 at the American Legion Post, 634 Water St., Eau Claire. Auction time is 7:30 p.m., and the hall will be open at 6:30 p.m. for setup.

Steve Hart, KA9OMC,  
Secretary/Treasurer, NWRC

## Happy New Year!

From the staff of  
*Badger State Smoke Signals*

## Cosmonaut on the Air Again

Within two days of returning to the Soviet permanent space station MIR, Musa Maranov, U2MIR, resumed Amateur Radio operations on 145.55 FM. Musa was active from MIR two years ago. MIR's 51-degree inclination orbit makes it accessible for just about all of the amateur population of the world. It was hoped that U2MIR would be able to work WA4SIR, aboard the Shuttle *Columbia*, and SAREX relay station PY2BJO had arranged a three-way with MIR, the Shuttle, and himself, for late on Dec. 11 when the two spacecraft would be in sight of each other. This opportunity was lost when the Shuttle landed on Dec. 10, slightly ahead of schedule.

PY2BJO did make contact on 145.55 MHz FM with Maranov, who switched from two to 20 watts during the QSO. "WOW, big difference, wonderful, amazing, extraordinary," said Junior.

Since it is not known how long Maranov will be aboard MIR (his last tour of duty lasted 366 days), he could still be aloft when the next SAREX flight, STS-37, is in orbit next year.

In January, MIR is scheduled to receive a packet radio experiment package which will be permanently installed, and will include a voice synthesizer to transmit bulletins in English, Russian, and German. Maranov says he expects to begin packet activity sometime after Jan. 15.

- The ARRL Letter, 12/14/90



# West Allis Club Honors Members at Dinner



The West Allis Radio Amateur Club recently honored some of its members at the club's annual Awards Dinner. In the above photo, Dave Knaus, WA9POV (left), and Ray Hoffman, WB9JYR (right), are presented 20-year endorsements for their membership plaques by club president Ron Hooker, K9WTF. In the photo at right, Mike Bauer, NS9J (left), receives his "Member of the Year" plaque from President Ron Hooker, K9WTF. A very active club, WARAC sponsors the annual Mid-Winter Swapfest at Waukesha (this year, Saturday, Jan. 12, 1991) and the Wisconsin QSO Party. The club also sponsors the Emil



Kumershek Memorial Scholarships, awarding three \$500 scholarships every year to young radio amateurs in Wisconsin.

- Photos by Les Peterson, W9YCV

## Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club

Carl Searing, W9NW  
Secretary  
1129 McKinley Road  
Eau Claire, WI. 54703

### Minutes of Dec. 11, 1990 Meeting

Many of the club members and families gathered on this date at the American Legion Hall on Water Street for the annual Christmas meeting potluck dinner. Some 30 attended, and an excellent and varied meal was enjoyed by all. As is usual, there was no formal program; socializing and "eye-ball QSOs" were the norm.

There was a brief meeting. President Bill Jablonske, W9NNS, called the meeting to order. The reading of the minutes of the last meeting was dispensed with, although the treasurer's report was read. The resolution of the date for the annual Club Hamfest was announced. The 1991 Hamfest will be held on Saturday, July 27th, at the same 4-H Fairgrounds location used in the past.

W9NW announced the dates for the VE exams for 1991: January 12, April 13, July 27, and October 12. The location for all exams remains the Maintenance Building at UW/EC, except for July 27th, which testing will be done at the Hamfest location.

Treasurer K9UXP announced that 1991 dues are payable and welcome.

Respectfully submitted:  
Carl Searing, W9NW, Secretary

## TAYLOR COUNTY AREA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Rolland Walty, W9LEE  
Secretary  
W. 4117 Hwy. 102  
Westboro, WI 54490

**Next meeting:** January 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the Taylor County Courthouse Annex, corner of 2nd and Ogden, Medford, Wis.

**Officers for 1991 will be elected, so all members are urged to attend. If you don't, you may find yourself elected to office without a chance to defend yourself!**

Also, dues will be due for 1991, so be sure to check the expiration date on your membership card and act accordingly.

### Minutes of December 13 Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 7:24 p.m. by President N9GEN. Present were KE4FE, KB9BLV,

N9GHZ, N9GEN, and W9LEE. Minutes of November meeting were read and approved. Again, no treasurer's report.

N9GHZ reported that the packet node in Medford has been taken off the air and will be moved temporarily to the QTH of WA9ZCO in Dorchester for modifications, including the installation of a different transceiver, in an effort to improve performance.

It was proposed that N9GHZ collaborate with the secretary in editing the newsletter. Motion tabled until election of new slate of officers. Also, it was noted that some emergency ID cards issued to members by the Taylor County Sheriff have expired. Members are urged to check their cards.

N9GHZ will alternate with W9LEE as NCS of the Wednesday evening ARES net on the 147.15 repeater.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m., after which a videotape of the Abbotsford Christmas Parade was shown.

Rolland Walty, W9LEE  
Secretary

**WPDR 1350** **WDDC FM100**

Portage, WI

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## Code-Free Technician

(Continued from front page)

"Offering a codeless class of license that authorizes control operator privileges at stations which transmit exclusively above 30 MHz," the Commission said, "provides an entry level opportunity to otherwise qualified persons who find (telegraphy) a barrier to pursuing the purposes of the amateur service."

The Technician written examination will remain 55 questions; there will be no questions over and above the current Technician exam. "New" Technicians will not receive call signs singling them out as codeless licensees. At a Dec. 13 appearance before the FCC Commissioners, PRB Chief Haller noted the special efforts of several PRB staffers for their work in formulating the Reports on both the codeless license and the testing of the disabled.

The avalanche of letters from amateurs elicited a response from Commissioner James Quello, who noted "The large number of comments reflects the vitality of the (amateur) service."

William Cross of the PRB presented the item for the commissioners' consideration. He provided an excellent overview of the continuing contributions of the Amateur Service. "We will look to the Amateur Service" (in the future), Cross said, "to expand the pool of experimenters, engineers, and technicians."

## ARRL Applauds FCC Retention of Novice License, Seeks Input on Privileges for Codeless Technicians

Responding to the Federal Communications Commission in PR Docket 90-55 creating a codeless class of Amateur Radio license, the President of the American Radio Relay League, Larry Price, W4RA, noted with pleasure that the Commission had decided to retain the Novice license as a means of entry into Amateur Radio, and to adopt a codeless license with a meaningful written examination requirement. "Our members were very strong on both of these points, because they couldn't imagine how we could maintain the character of the Amateur Radio Service without them," Mr. Price said.

However, President Price sounded a note of caution with regard to the privileges the Commission plans to grant to codeless licensees. "The formula developed by the ARRL Board, which called for privileges above 220 MHz, was based on extensive membership input. It was carefully balanced to offer attractive privileges while protecting existing patterns of amateur activity."

While it will take some time to gauge the

Cross noted "a concern within the amateur community" that the Morse code requirement may discourage some otherwise qualified people who could contribute to the service by entering it."

Cross reminded the commissioners of several specific contributions of amateurs, whom he called "pioneers": the adoption of SSB by the U.S. Air Force in the 1950s, after hams proved the mode's viability; and the hams' early use of low-earth (orbit) satellites, as well as their ongoing Space Shuttle SAREX program.

"Society is well served by amateurs available worldwide," Cross said, "by persons ready, willing, and - most important - able to communicate" (in times of emergency).

FCC Chairman Alfred C. Sikes said he saw the proposals as "having the potential of creating an even more vital and dynamic service."

This method of introducing a codeless class of amateur license was not entirely what the ARRL had proposed. The League sought a totally new class of license (the "Communicator"), that would have granted full amateur frequency and mode privileges only above 220 MHz. This had been a compromise by the League's Board of Directors, some of whom urged greater privileges for the new license class, some less. The board vote was split - nine to six - at the time the proposal was authorized, although support grew later.

The League had sought full protection of current Novice and Technician licenses, which the new rules accomplish. - *The ARRL Letter*, 12/14/90

reaction to the Commission's action, Mr. Price observed that the FCC formula is likely to be less acceptable to many amateurs than the League's (formula). He asked that League members share their views with their elected Directors, who collectively determine League policy.

"Before we can decide whether to request that the Commission partially reconsider its action, we'll have to see the Report and Order," said Mr. Price. Usually it takes the FCC from several days to several weeks after a Commission action to release an item after editorial review. There is a 30-day window of opportunity following release in which petitions for reconsideration can be filed. Mr. Price noted that the ARRL Board was holding its regular meeting on January 18-19, 1991. "The timing looks good for a careful review of the Commission's action at that meeting," he said.

- *The American Radio Relay League*, December 13, 1990

## From the Editor

Here a few notes regarding the stories on this page. (1) If you have an opinion about the no-code Technician license, please communicate it to your ARRL Division Director. The Central Division Director is Ed Metzger, W9PRN, 1917 Lindsay Rd., Springfield, IL, 62704. His phone is (217) 546-

6870. (2) During the 220-MHz reallocation proceedings, FCC said it might look favorably on a petition for secondary access to 216-220 MHz by radio amateurs. The ARRL has asked for and received a special license to operate on certain frequencies in that area, just above TV channel 13, for TVI research. It is nearly certain that ARRL will petition for amateur use of 216-220 MHz.

## Court Denies 220-MHz Appeal

Amateurs came one step closer to losing part of the 220-MHz band on Dec. 3, when the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruled that the Federal Communications Commission acted within its discretion in awarding 220-222 MHz to land mobile users (in PR Docket 89-552).

On Nov. 16, lawyers for the League and for the FCC argued before the court. The ARRL's position was (1) that the FCC underestimated the use of the 220-MHz band by amateurs; (2) that a previous FCC decision precludes new spectrum allocations to land mobile users; and (3) that the FCC had wrongly estimated the ability of new, narrowband technologies to conserve spectrum.

In the matter of band occupation, the League argued that more than just *The ARRL Repeater Directory* should be used as a source, but the judges noted that FCC had relied on materials "that petitioner itself submitted."

As for new allocations to land mobile, the court recognized "that the Commission would generally prefer to avoid new allocations and to look instead to technological solutions that would allow more parties to use the same frequency, but its preferences hardly rise to the level of a settled policy."

The court deferred to the Commission in determining that the frequency space in question should be taken from amateurs and awarded to commercial interests, and of FCC's belief that using narrowband technologies on land mobile bands is not the answer to the perceived needs of those commercial interests.

"These (the FCC's) decisions," the court said, "are based on a close acquaintance with the technical, economic, and other aspects of the competing technologies, and we cannot say that the Commission did not arrive at a reasoned decision about the best way to advance the 'public convenience, interest, or necessity.'"

The League has 30 days from release of the court's judgment to decide whether to further pursue the matter.

- *The ARRL Letter*, 12/14/90

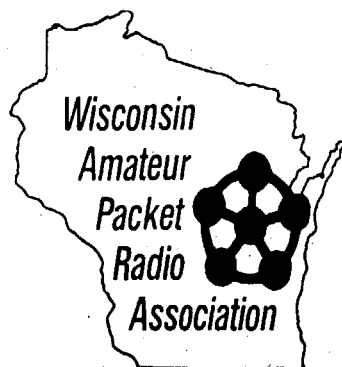
## No Recourse Left?

The ARRL and the amateur community have no other legal recourse open to them other than clear legislation by Congress. Editor Art Reis (K9XI) of *220 Notes* spoke with ARRL General Council Chris Imlay, N3AKD, and learned that the appeals court was the last stop in the legal process and, accordingly, the FCC is not in the position to set a date when hams must vacate 220-222 MHz.

As 220 users again vent their anger and frustration with the FCC, several have once again been heard openly saying that there is no way they will ever remove their repeater links and weak signal experiments from the lower third of the band. These alienated hams say that the government has forced them to the situation where they will protest the reallocation by refusing to withdraw their signals when ordered to do so. Whether this is a real threat to the new users coming to the lower portion of 1.25 meters or mere rhetoric remains to be seen.

- Excerpted from *Westlink Report*, 12/21/90





# THE WISCONSIN PACKETEER

Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Association (WAPR)

c/o Carl Schumacher, N9BYS

7740 Evergreen Terrace, Burlington, WI 53106

Steve Loeffler, WB9ZRE, Editor, 123 W. Oshkosh St., Ripon, WI 54971

AEA has announced the availability of their new PC Pakrat II software for controlling the PK-232 and MBX version TNCs. It allows better access to ALL commands/parameters and is mouse driven. Shipping began on December 1st. Contact AEA for more details.

800 LLBBS With HAM Conference  
I have been using a FREE 800 LLBBS w/ham conf for about 2 months now. Only hitch is - no files at all... Just message xfers... I would hope sysops would register and a free discussion on MSYS or any other BBS software would be discussed. Registration consists of Name and drivers lic #. After that is checked out - your in... Numbers are:

800-666-5698  
800-766-1720  
800-866-5698  
800-766-5698

Try it - No fees so far...My name for messages on the Idiot Box : Dan Servais .

Dan - WA9AJW @ WA9AJW.WI.USA

C-64 Video Improvement  
Improving readability w/80 columns C-64 monochrome monitors Problems with your Commodore-64 to read the characters on the 80-column screen?...I did until I got a tip from W4KUM, who did the original discovery! If you use a monochrome monitor with your C-64, and, as is normally done, the Connected to pin 4 (Video Output) of the Audio/Video connector, try to connect it to pin 1 (Luminance) instead! Turn the Contrast and Brightness down from the normal settings used. This results in a noticeable improvement of the readability of the 80-column screen!

KBODSW - MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA

Radix 95 Binary to Text Utility  
Anyone needing a copy of R95, the utility used to send out the latest LFA for MSYS or used up-load/download binary files (programs, drawings, etc.) thru packet BBSs, can send me a formatted or unformatted diskette - 360K only - and I will make a copy for you and pick up the return postage if necessary. I have mailers available. Send to:  
WA9AJW - Dan Servais  
Rt 1 Box 816, Elkhorn, WI 53121

R95 is a encode/decode Binary to Text utility that will enable you to send a EXE (binary) file over packet. Otherwise YAPP or Packet Gold or some of the other terminal programs are needed. Using R95 we can fwd EXE files in text form and decode them back to binary (EXE-cuttable) file form. Handy as heck!  
Dan - WA9AJW

Beginners BBS Tips  
Editor's note: This is a compilation of the 14 part series written by KB4VOL. Due to the size of the series, the second half of this compilation will appear in next month's issue of "Packeteer".

With so many packet newcomers, I thought I would start a series of bulletins explaining the sometimes confusing commands available when you connect to a local BBS.

One of the most misunderstood ones is L for List. If you enter L at the prompt, you will get a listing of all messages (except Private ones addressed to someone else.) However, this L command will only list those received SINCE YOU LAST CHECKED IN! Enter it again, and the BBS may report NOTHING FOUND, as nothing new was received since you entered it a few moments ago. This can confuse a lot of people! (NOTE: this is true on most bbss, although some WILL allow repeated entry of the L command. Try yours and see. If it works when you repeat it, fine. If not, now you know the

reason!) Most users prefer the LL xx command. Example, LL 30 will list the last 30 messages received. Enter it again, and you'll get the list over again. Obviously the xx number in LL xx can be any number you choose. Don't forget a space between the two! One thing to remember! Unless you're the bbss sysop (SYStem OPERator), or are enabled as the Remote Sysop, most bbss will only show you a list of bulletins and messages originated by you or addressed to you. It will also display formal NTS traffic (usually tagged T.) If your local bbs does display (P)ivate messages addressed to other stations, attempts to read them will usually fail. After all, you're trying to "read somebody else's mail!"

Lets talk about using the (L)ist command to pinpoint certain types of bulletins. We've already discussed how the command LL xx will list the last xx number of messages, etc., but a lot of what you'll see isn't of interest. That's where the L@ and the L> commands are helpful. As an example, lets say you're interested in AMSAT information. Some of these are send to ALL @ AMSAT. To see those displayed, enter L@ AMSAT (note space!), which means LIST AT AMSAT. But, there are others addressed as AMSAT @ ALLUS. The word AMSAT is in the "TO" space, rather than "AT." How do we see those? Simple! Just enter L> AMSAT which means LIST TO AMSAT. A few more examples. Just interested in ARRL messages? Enter L@ ARL to get them. How about those bulletins listing equipment for sale? These are usually addressed to either SALE or 4SALE. Enter L> SALE or L> 4SALE to see them. Maybe someone needs something. Try L> WANTED to see those. The reverse of L> is L< which means LIST FROM. This might be helpful if KC4ZZZ sent out a bulletin and you want to see it. Enter L< KC4ZZZ and you've got it. Personal messages? Enter LM for yours, which means (L)ist (M)ine. You can



use L> (CALLSIGN) or L< (CALLSIGN), but remember you can't read personal messages unless they're addressed to you, or sent by you. Formal NTS traffic is important, and you should always see if there's any you can help deliver. LT which means (L)ist (T)raffic will bring you a listing of whatever is there. If you are successful in delivering a piece of traffic, use K (MESSAGE-NUMBER) to kill it off the bbs so no one else will attempt a duplicate delivery.

Lets look at that L command you should try to avoid. Its LB which means (L)ist (B)ulletins. There's nothing wrong with the command itself, but you may hate what it does. BBSs lately have been receiving a mountain of bulletins every day. Some BBSs let them pile up for quite a few days. Enter LB and the BBS will proceed to send you a list of every bulletin it has, which could be hundreds! This will take forever to transmit, completely tie up the frequency and, by the time you get to the 100th or so, your brain will be so numb you'll probably disconnect in self-defense! Far better to use the LL xx command, which we've previously discussed. Connect to your BBS regularly, enter LL 20 or whatever, and you'll see what's new without your brain or the BBS blowing a fuse!

Now, lets start looking at the S command which is very often misused. Lets see what commands we have available. Most BBSs will recognize SP, SB and ST. The first letter S means SEND. That alerts the BBS that a message is coming, and it prepares to receive it. The second letter shows the TYPE of message: P, B or T. Today, lets begin with SP. SP means (S)end (P)ivate. The only person who can read this message is the station to whom it is addressed. Examples: SP KC4ZZZ would be a message sent to a station using the same BBS. SP KC4XXX @ KC4YYY indicates the station is at another BBS, perhaps at another LAN or even out of state. Your HOME BBS will automatically forward this message for you. Lets look at SB and ST. SB means (S)end (B)ulletin. This is the form used when you want it to be read by everyone. Bulletins are usually sent to an @ DESTINATION. If you just send it as SB ALL it will just sit on the BBS for local users to read. Send it a SB ALL @ DESTINATION and it will be forwarded. These are examples of two @ DESTINATIONS: SB ALL @ FLA covers BBSs over the entire state. SB ALL @ ALLUS blankets

the nation. There are many other @ DESTINATIONS, including local and regional ones, but you get the idea. Sometimes it helps to use a special address to alert users who might be interested in a specific subject, so they'll read your bulletin. SB REBBS @ FLA and SB CAP @ ALLUS are examples. NOTE! A common error is when users address a bulletin as SP instead of SB. This makes it a PRIVATE message and no one, except BBS sysops, will be able to read it! Make this mistake, and you'll wonder why you never get any replies! Also, don't address ANY message as just S (SOMETHING). Many BBSs automatically append a P to an S-only message making it SP. If you intended to send out a bulletin, you've had it! Always start your messages with SP, SB or ST. ST means (S)end (T)raffic. This is used only for formally formatted NTS messages with a routine number, day/time, group count, etc. To aid in routing always put the town, state and phone number in the subject line. Formal traffic messages may be sent @ the destination BBS, if you know it. If not, address the message to the zipcode of the destination and use NTSxx where xx is the 2 letter state abbreviation. Example: ST ZIP @ NTSOH (SUBJ): Columbus OH 555-1211 Remember, never use ST for anything but a formally formatted NTS message. If you've picked up a piece of NTS traffic off the bbs, and successfully delivered it, I urged you to (K)ill the message by using K (messagenumber) in order that someone else does not redeliver the same message. However, on some bbs, its necessary to use the command KT (messagenumber). Use whatever works on your local bbs.

What follows was alluded to in W8DUVs column in "Florida Skip" a few months ago. I've changed a few names and callsigns to protect the guilty. First, lets set the scene. Norman Newcomer has had his TNC for several days. Flushed with success at his ability to have a keyboard qso with a few other users, he decides to try connecting to a BBS. Besides, he met the guy who runs the BBS at the club meeting the other night, and wants to say hello. Here's what happened, suitably edited in case there are children listening:

CONNECTED TO KC4ZZZ  
KB4VOL BBS >  
"Hi Bill, how is it going?"  
\*\*\* WHAT?  
KB4VOL BBS >

"Bill, this is Norm. We met at the club meeting the other night."

\*\*\* WHAT?

KB4VOL BBS >

"Hey, don't you remember? I bought you nine beers afterward!"

DISCONNECTED

What happened here? Well, Norm didn't realize that Bill was probably nowhere near the hamshack, and HE WAS TALKING TO A COMPUTER. Now, computers are wonderful things but, as used in a BBS, they're programmed to respond to certain commands, and only to those commands. Throw anything else at it, and it will respond with \*\*\* WHAT? or something similar. Its simply telling you that it doesn't recognize what you're sending as a command, and wants you to try again. However, after a certain number of these "errors" have been received, most BBSs will automatically disconnect, which is what happened in our little scenario. So, please remember, next time you're connected to a BBS, use the commands the thing will recognize. If you decide you want to have a keyboard QSO with the sysop, enter the letter T for (T)alk. The BBS will tell you its paging the sysop and his computer will let go with a series of squawks that can be heard down the block. If he doesn't respond after about a minute or so, the BBS will tell you he's not available, or words to that effect, and invite you to leave him a message with the SP command. Of course if yes there, hell come right back to you. Simple, huh?

Lets start looking at the versatile R command. R means (R)ead, and its we use it to read a message or bulletin. Example: R 1234 would give us message number 1234, etc. We can also read a group of them at once: R 1234 1246 (NOTE SPACES!) But, unless you're a speed-reader, its probably better to read them one at a time, as the bbs will send one after the other in rapid succession! Remember, you can only read bulletins, NTS traffic and mail to or from you. Most bbs will not let you read private messages addressed to someone else unless you're the sysop, or have been enabled as remote sysop. Chances are, when you do a (L)ist (covered earlier), you wont even see the private messages on the bbs. Lets go one step further. Lets say you sent a message to KC4ZZZ and you want to reread it, but forgot its message number. Enter R> KC4ZZZ and you've got it! But, suppose

(continued on page 19)



# Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club



K90DK  
WB9FDZ

Art Kleefisch, W9WSS  
Secretary  
1014 5th Street  
Baraboo, WI. 53913

The YTARC meets in the Baraboo Civic Center at 7:30 PM.  
January 15 (Tuesday) Room --  
February 13 (Wednesday) Room --  
March 14 (Thursday) Room --  
Room number will be posted at both entrances.

Minutes of  
YTARC November 14, 1990 Meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 PM by President Duane Grotophorst. The following members were present:

Duane Grotophorst, KA9HKL	Logenville
Jim Decker, WB9UQT	Baraboo
Harry Mayland, K9FFT	Baraboo
Harry Westlund, K9EHJ	Baraboo
Art Kleefisch, W9WSS	Baraboo
Dennis Sweeney	Portage
Joey Sweeney, KB9ERR	Portage
Dennis Sweeney	Portage
Joe Rowland	Portage
Harold Reif, KA9YQP	Baraboo

The minutes of the November meeting were accepted as published in BSSS.

The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Duane brought up the subject of Novice Classes for further discussion. Novices Classes will be scheduled to start in April. Dennis Sweeney and Joe Rowland said that the Portage Armory could be available for these classes. Joe suggested a letter to Sergeant Bethke with class details and purpose. The scouts meet there on Tuesday but other days should be available.

Art Escher, WA9WUS, is now a Silent Key. His Death was due to a Cardiac Arrest around 11 AM on December 7th. Art was a charter member of YTARC. A sympathy card was sent to the family of Art Escher from all present and past YTARC members.

The following officers were elected for 1991:

President, Art Kleefisch, W9WSS  
Vice President, Steve Schoegler, WB9RNL  
Secretary, Duane Grotophorst, KA9HKL  
Treasurer, Jim Decker, WB9UQT

Buck-nite was won by Harry Westlund, K9EHJ. Harry won seven bucks which he said would go into his Packet Fund.

We want thank Dennis Sweeney for bringing the goodies for the annual Christmas celebration. Small gifts were exchanged.  
Art Kleefisch, Secretary

Knowledge is the only instrument of production that is not subject to diminishing returns.  
--J.M. Clark

## YTARC BIRTHDAZE

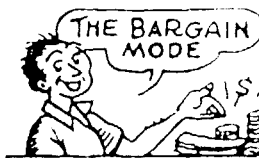
Fred Becker W9KKM March 17

## PACKETEER

(continued from page 18)  
he sent out a bulletin and you've forgotten the number of that one, too. Enter R< KC4ZZZ and there it is! Don't forget, the symbol < means "from," and the symbol > means "to." We can use these with (L)ist as well as (R)ead commands.

Lets continue our look at the R commands with one that mystifies a lot of users! Its RM which means (R)ead (M)ine. Its used when a bbs says it has a message for you. You don't bother getting the message number so you grab the easy way. You enter RM on your keyboard, and sit back while a message from Aunt Tillie floats by on your screen. "Hey, this is neat!" you say. "Lemme read it again!" So you punch RM on the keyboard and the bbs replies "Nothing found" or words to that effect. What happened? Well, beating on the keyboard or throwing your TNC out the window wont help. What the bbs is telling you is that nothing NEW has been found since your previous message, AND YOU'VE ALREADY READ THAT so the bbs has tagged it as being "read." To read it again you have to enter R (MESSAGE NUMBER). Forgotten it? Enter LM (List Mine) to get it. Incidentally, when you're done reading your messages, it a courtesy to the sysop to kill them with KM (Kill Mine). Want some more? Okay, lets look at the R< and R> commands. Remember, the symbol "<" means FROM and ">" means TO. Lets say KC4ZZZ has put a local bulletins on the bbs, and you want to read it. The bulletin is addressed to HAMS @ PODUNK but you don't know the message number. Enter R< KC4ZZZ (Read FROM KC4ZZZ) and you'll get it. You could also use R> HAMS (Read

TO hams). Another way would be to enter R@ PODUNK. (Read AT Podunk). WARNING! If there's more than one bulletin from KC4ZZZ, or more than one addressed the same way, you're going to get ALL of them with these commands! It might be better to use the (L)ist command (covered in bulletin #2) to spot the one you want. Otherwise you might get a very long string of messages from the bbs while the frequency gets tied up and your brain turns to mush.



# SSB

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OUR WANT ADS GET RESULTS

WANTED: Xtals for the novice bands. To be used in homebrew equipment. Also want old ARRL VHF Handbook and FM & Repeaters Handbook. Bill Wood, KE9XQ. (608) 788-3571

FOR SALE: Ancient Helicopter. Amazing toy flies on its own power! Plans \$1.00 ppd. Dr. Tom King, WF9I, 4817 Sierra Dr., Eau Claire, WI 54701.

FOR SALE: Colorful United States Stamps. 100 all different. \$1.00 postpaid. Richard Regent, K9GLE, 5003 South 26th St., Milwaukee, WI 53221.

WANTED: Old or unusual telegraph keys and bugs. Contact Jerry Scherkenbach at call book address, telephone (414) 481-8831 or Packet radio N9AW @ WB9TYT.

WANTED: Old Ham Gear. Transmitters and receivers. Collins, Johnson, etc. Also good homebrew units. N9IER. Scott. (414) 246-8765

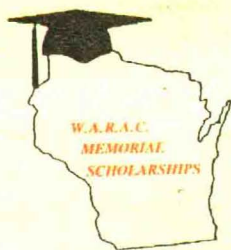
Did you ever think about getting married, becoming a ham radio operator and living happily ever after? If so, which one did you decide to do?

In constructing a ham shack in our basement some of the nails we pounded in leaned over backwards to keep us from getting ahead of schedule.

Our little nephew was doing his homework the other evening and mentioned looking for the common denominator in his problem. We were amazed --They were looking for it when we were a kid.



# The Shopping Center



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